

A NEW EDITION.

---

THE  
T O U R  
O F  
H O L L A N D, &c.

A NEW EDITION.

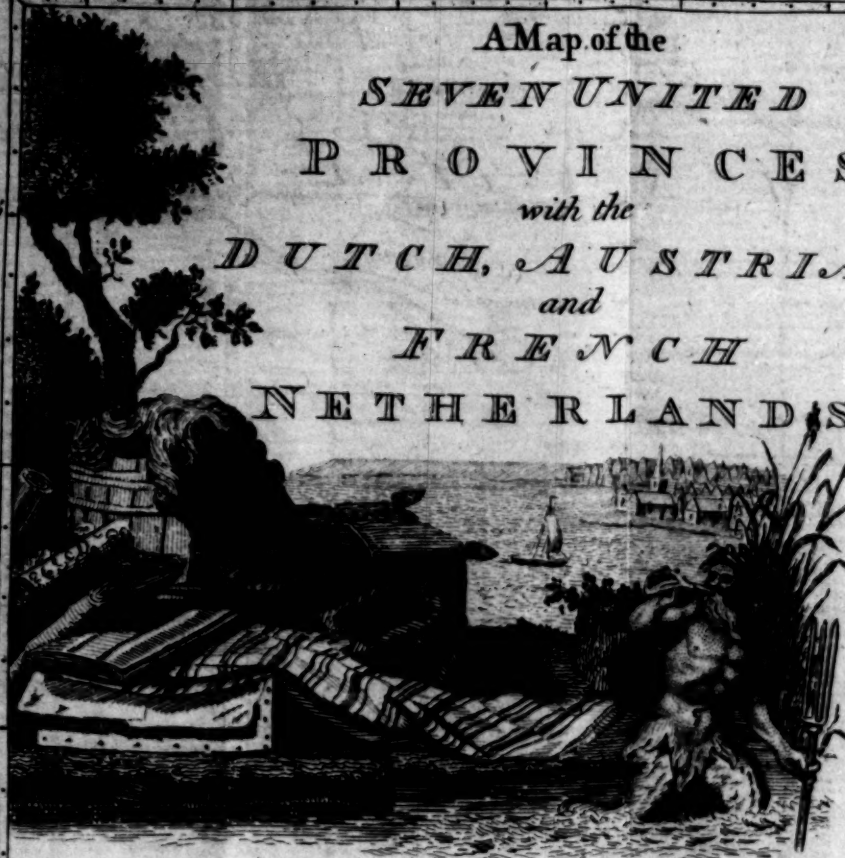
THE  
T. O. U. R.

H. O. L. I. A. N. D. & C.





A Map of the  
SEVEN UNITED  
PROVINCES;  
with the  
DUTCH, AUSTRIAN,  
and  
FRENCH  
NETHERLANDS.



De Bree  
Veerthien

G E R M A N

O C E A N

F L A N D E R S

F R E N C H

A U S T R I A N

H A I N A U L T

E T H E R I

C A M B R E S I S

P I C A R D I E

D U T C H

B R A B A N T

A N T W E R P

N E T H E R L A N D S

L I M B U R G

L U X E M B O U R G

L U X E M B O U R G

L U X E M B O U R G

L U X E M B O U R G

L U X E M B O U R G

L U X E M B O U R G

L U X E M B O U R G

L U X E M B O U R G



THE  
T O U R  
OF  
H O L L A N D,  
DUTCH BRABANT,  
THE  
AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS,  
AND  
PART OF FRANCE;  
IN WHICH IS INCLUDED A  
DESCRIPTION OF PARIS  
AND ITS  
E N V I R O N S.

A NEW EDITION, corrected and improved,

With a MAP of HOLLAND and the NETHERLANDS  
From the LAST SURVEYS.

Edw. Harry Peckham

L O N D O N:

Printed for G. KEARSLEY, No. 46, Fleet-Street.  
M,DCC,LXXX.

Price Three Shillings and Sixpence;  
half-bound,

THE  
 T O U R  
 OF  
 H O L L A N D  
 DETICH BRABANT  
 THE  
 AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS  
 AND  
 THE

DESCRIPTION OF THE  
 AND ITS  
 E W I N O N  
 A New Edition, corrected and  
 WITH A MAP OF HOLLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS  
 AND A LIST OF THE

By  
 J O H N  
 Thomas St. O. M. Esq. F.R.S. Esq.  
 MDCCLXXX  
 Price Three Shillings and Sixpence  
 Published by



---

---

T O U R  
O F  
H O L L A N D, &c.

DEAR SIR,

YOU have sacrificed your judgment to your friendship, or you would not have asked my permission to publish those letters I sent you from abroad, nor endeavoured by compliments to win my consent.

Consider the hasty manner in which they were written ; frequently at table, and in the company of my friends ; both language and grammar therefore, I am afraid, have often been violated, and I have neither time to polish the one, nor inclination to correct the other.

B

The

The observations are too thinly scattered, and are either crude, or common; even the *purpureus pannus* is wanting to recommend them.

You tell me they proved of infinite service to you, because the names and value of the different coins were ascertained and compared with the English: that the distance from place to place, with the mode and expence of travelling, was accurately calculated, and none of the places within the tour, worthy a stranger's attention, were omitted. I confess that these are advantages to the few who travel, but to other readers will prove only a dry detail.

I have not the vanity to suppose, that such letters can benefit either the publisher or the publick. I am convinced they cannot do their author credit, must therefore insist upon my name's being concealed, and that you will erase every sentence that might lead to the detection of your ever

Affectionate friend,

. . . . .





Helveotfluice, July 30, 1769.

DEAR SIR,

NOTHING could have added to the pleasure I promise myself in this little excursion, but the addition of your company; as the pursuits you are engaged in render it impossible I must submit, and console myself with endeavouring to make my letters a faithful guide, though not an agreeable companion. As I write with this view, I must often be very tedious in mentioning a thousand little nothings which in your intended tour will not be wholly immaterial, as I know not of any treatise to guide you through Holland; and instruct you in those articles, which every traveller must otherwise be at a loss to know.

After having hunted all the booksellers shops and stalls in London, I at length picked up a voluminous octavo in English, whose title promised me a Description of Holland, with the whole et cætera of manners and customs---but this pompous *Title* afforded me

B 2

only

only a tedious detail of the Hague ; we must therefore blunder through the country as well as we can, without other assistance than a little French and some money.

I left London at four yesterday morning with my two friends, and an English servant who knows no language but his own. The road is well calculated for expedition, being free from hills, and there is but little sand to retard a carriage. We breakfasted at Wingham, where there was nothing to attract our attention, but the very great civility of our host at the Blue Posts. We made some little stay at Colchester, to take a cursory view of the town, which is considerable in the number, as well as in the goodness of the houses. The grand street is very spacious, on the left of which is an old quadrangular brick castle, converted now into a prison, the only use it can be adapted to. The road does not abound in views, but between Manningtree and Harwich, there are some scenes tolerably picturesque, which are heightened by the Tide-river that divides Essex and Suffolk.

Harwich

Harwich is, I think, the worst of all possible places, but the accommodations at the White Hart perhaps made me peevish; add to this, the shoal of scoundrels who pick your pocket with impunity. As it is a borough town, the voters must be provided for, and are rewarded with salaries arising from the fees of such emigrants as myself.

We were first attacked by a clerk for thirteen shillings and sixpence each, for which he generously gave us a piece of paper, which he called a permit, and which was of no other use but for a Dutchman to light his pipe with. He told me, in answer to my enquiry into the nature of his demand, that he was rather thick of hearing; I thought his reason conclusive, and we paid him his fees immediately.

The officers of the customs then insisted on their fees for tumbling our clothes, and deranging our trunks, and for what they call *sufferance*, which is, "to permit a man to take out of the kingdom what the laws have not prohibited." Having thus run the gauntlet of imposition, we set sail in the Prince of Orange Capt. Story, at half past

fix in the evening. This vessel carries twelve men, and her burthen is one hundred and six tons. We found excellent accommodations, the cabin being a spacious room and rather elegantly fitted up. The passage must be difficult and extremely dangerous to men not perfectly conversant with these seas, on account of the innumerable shoals and rocks. We were very fortunate in the fineness of the evening, and fairness of the wind. I know not a more glorious sight than the sun setting in the waters; and as the night came on, was much pleased with observing the different light-houses for the direction of pilots, and the waves striking fire against the prow of the ship---Philosophers have entertained various opinions concerning this luminous appearance: Boyle attributed it to some cosmical law of the terrestrial globe, or at least of the planetary vortex: but Mr. Canton, F. R. S. has proved by experiments, as simple as ingenious, that it arises from the putrefaction of the animal substances in the sea.---The Captain entertained us with throwing the log-line: this is done by a little square piece of wood let down from the stern of the ship, which



which is tied to a cord wound on a reel, and at equal distances has knots made in it; from the number of knots which run out in a minute, (for which purpose there is a minute glass) the sailors compute how many miles the vessel makes in an hour.

In this manner we land-men amused ourselves, till drowsiness warned us to our cabins: these are little boxes within the sides of the ship of sufficient size to hold one person. As there were no sheets, I turned in with my clothes on, and slept very soundly till the Captain waked me in the morning, with the pleasing news of our being within sight of Helveot, where we landed about ten o'clock; and as soon as we had refreshed ourselves with a dish of tea, spent the remainder of the day in examining this little sea-port.

Helveotfluice is situated in the island of Voorn, in the province of Holland; is surrounded with a wet fossé and a strong rampart faced with brick; which is intended, as much I believe, to guard against the irruption of the waves, as of an enemy. The harbour, which seems wonderfully safe, runs through the middle of the town, and projects,  
by



## S T O U R O F

by the help of piers, about fifty yards into the main ocean. There is a grandeur in this attempt, which I should not have thought the genius of the Dutch capable of, though I am well aware that their industry would surmount the difficulty. The water at the pier-head is ninety feet deep, the piles are one hundred and forty feet long, and are driven thirty-five feet into the shore; the interstices are filled with bavins, which are kept down with large stones brought from Norway. The dexterity of our naval charioteer pleased me much, for he turned round the corner of the pier with as sharp an angle as I have ever seen made by a carriage.

This harbour is full of ships; on each side is a spacious quay laid with Dutch clinkers; beyond which is a façade of houses most whimsically pretty; the window shutters are painted with yellow or green, and there is a painted bench at every door, where the people sit in stupid inactivity, and I believe without any conversation, for I have scarce seen a mouth open unless to yawn. The houses are built in a wretched style, with narrow fronts,  
r unning

running up to a point, by which means the gabel end destroys the attic story.

The harbour runs through the town to a large bason, which contains at present twelve men of war lying in perfect security. It is divided from the harbour by a pair of flood-gates, over which is thrown a bridge of curious mechanisim. It divides in the middle, and under the center of each half are sixteen brass wheels fixed on an axle which stands on a large buttress; it is so nicely hung that a child may turn it, when both parts of the bridge point up and down the harbour, which effectually stops the passage.

In the dock there seems to be but a very inconsiderable quantity of naval stores, and in the barracks, which are extremely neat, only two companies of soldiers. The walks upon the ramparts are very pleasing, being turfed and perfectly clean, as indeed is almost every thing here---so nice are they, that at our host's, Mrs. Wykham's, there is a little scale hangs upon the nose of the boiler to catch the drops, lest they should fall upon the hearth which is of polished iron: and I narrowly

rowly escaped a beating from the chambermaid for having my hair powdered in my bed-chamber. We strolled into a church, which had nothing but cleanliness to recommend it. The men sit with their hats on, and both men and women are seated in the body of the church, in chairs numbered on the backs. The priest spoke extempore with fluency, but as I know not the language, am ignorant of his merit.

The Captain promises to put this letter into the post at Harwich; you shall hear from me again as soon as I have any thing to communicate, and time to write. We purpose leaving this place to-morrow morning.

Adieu !

Rotterdam.

DEAR SIR,

Thursday, Aug. 3.

WE left Helveot on Monday morning in a state waggon, which was the best conveyance the place afforded; and even to get that, requires no little form. I went to the Commissary, who, upon receiving six stivers, rang a bell, which in a few moments summoned all the waggoners in the town; when thus assembled, to prevent partiality in the Commissary and disputes among the drivers, the dice determine who shall have the fare, for which purpose there is fixed over the Commissary's door a kind of manger with a large box and dice. The price is fixed, imposition therefore is impossible. This miserable vehicle differs only from an English cart, in being somewhat slighter, and by having the cover painted with different colours; it is drawn by a pair of horses and guided by the boor, who sits in the head of it. To this machine there are no shafts, but a piece of wood, like a bugle-horn comes from the axle, with an iron hook, into which the driver puts one foot, and with it guides



guides the carriage to a hair's breadth ; the other he claps on the posteriors of one of his horses ; in this manner we travelled through very indifferent roads, and at a very moderate pace to the Brill ; I believe their pace is as fixed as their price ; and you might as easily persuade one of these savages to accelerate the one, as to diminish the other.

The Brill is larger than Helveot, and is tolerably fortified ; the buildings are old but regular, the streets are spacious and some of them lined with trees. This town is situated on the mouth of the Maes, which is a mile and a half wide. All the vessels that go to Rotterdam pass by this place ; and here is a boat for passengers which sails every tide to Rotterdam. A tolerable trade is still carried on here, but it has dwindled much from its former importance.

This was the first town taken by the malecontents under the Count of Marche, from the Spaniards in 1572, which was afterwards delivered up to Queen Elizabeth, with Flushing and Ramekins, as a mortgage for the money.



ney she had expended in supporting the States against Philip the second of Spain.

These cautionary towns were given up by James the first, in 1616, for one third of the money they were originally pledged for, owing to the poverty and folly of the king and the subtlety of the pensionary Barnevelt, who managed the negotiation.

There are twelve companies of soldiers quartered in the town; the Dutch uniform is blue faced with red, which has not so brilliant an appearance as the English and French uniforms. We attended the parade, and were treated with much civility by an officer of the corps who talked English. The parade being finished, a grenadier was flogged for drunkenness; he received twenty two strokes with the flat of the broad-sword over his clothes; a punishment as trifling, as with us the offence is common. From the Brill we passed the Maes in a ferry-boat to Rosenbure, a place of inconsiderable extent, but large enough to sustain six hundred head of cattle, four hundred of which have died within these three months of the distemper

C

which

which rages through the whole province with the most fatal violence.

We were shaken over this island in a common cart, the only convenience of the place, and crossed another branch of the Maes which brought us to Maesland-fluice, esteemed one of the finest villages in the south part of Holland. It is an extensive place well built, with canals running through almost every street; those which have not the benefit of the water, are ornamented with rows of walnut trees; and though chiefly inhabited by fishermen, the town is as neat as cleanliness can make it. We stayed here only for the setting out of the Treckschuyte, which goes to Delft six times a day. It resembles a livery barge on the Thames, but is smaller and less ornamented; it is drawn by one horse, and goes with the greatest ease four miles in an hour, which is the Dutch method of computing distance; so many hours to such a place; not leagues like the French, nor miles as the English. In fine weather this method of travelling is absolutely delightful; for a mere trifle you may hire the *roof*, which is a small cabin at the end of the boat

boat, with two sash windows on each side, a table in the middle, velvet cushions to sit on, and good room for six or eight people. The motion of the boat is imperceptible, and you may read, write, eat, or sleep, with as much ease as in your chamber. If this is not agreeable, you may get on the top of the boat, which has almost a flat roof, on which you may walk without danger, and as there is not a hillock in the country, you have nothing to intercept your view. I was almost sorry to leave the treckschuyte, which landed us at Delft about five o'clock in the evening. We dined at the Doele, a most admirable inn, and after dinner took a little walk round the city, which is in circumference between two and three miles, of an oblong figure, surrounded by an old wall and ditch, and defended by three dams against inundations. It is situated between Rotterdam and the Hague. The streets are wide, adorned with trees, canals, and many stone bridges: the inhabitants are rich, but being chiefly people who have retired from business, the trade of the place is but inconsiderable; even the Delft manufactory (which is little inferior to China,

except in transparency, which has been in vain attempted) greatly decays; the Dutch East India Company having imported such quantities of China, that it is become within the purchase of the lower class of people.

The principal magazine and armory of Holland is in this town, which does not make a very formidable appearance. We saw the old palace, which is now inferior to a common burgher's house. They shew you the mark of the balls in the wall, which went through the head of William, the first prince of Orange,, the founder of the state; who was assassinated by Balthazar Ghirard, an emissary of Philip the second. His tomb is shewn in the New Church, in marble, of very indifferent execution; the epitaph concludes in these words.--- "*Herois veré pii,*  
"*prudētis, invicti, quem Philippus Se-*  
"*cundus Hisp. rex, Europæ timor, timuit,*  
"*non domuit, non terruit, sed empto per-*  
"*cussore, fraude nefandâ sustulit.*" This church has one of the finest steeples in the Low Countries; and the chimes, which play every quarter of an hour, are most unusually harmonious.

In



In the Old Church are two monuments erected to the memory of Van Trump and Peter Heine, remarkable only for the heroes they are to perpetuate.

The Market-place is a spacious square ; on one side stands the New Church ; on the other, the Town-house, which is an old Gothic building, but tricked out with paint and ornament, so as to make no contemptible figure.

The Spin-house, or Bridewell, is as neat as any private house in England. Fornication is not so commendable, I find, in Holland as with us, at least in the eye of magistracy ; for there were many poor girls confined for their *philanthropy*, for five, ten, and some even for twenty years.

The two chief streets lie parallel to each other, and are near a mile in length---canals run through them edged with stately trees. Before most of the doors is an excellent pavement of black and white marble ; but as there is a bench at every house, it effectually prevents any person from walking on it.



About noon, on Tuesday, we left Delft, and took the treckschuyte to this place. The Quay, we embarked from, was very spacious, adorned with trees, and the canal broader than any I had seen. It is a most agreeable journey to Rotterdam; the number of little gardens and pleasure houses built on the banks of the canal, the little village of Overschie which is about mid-way, and a fine avenue of trees above half a mile in length, which leads you to the gates of Rotterdam, all conspire to fill the mind with pleasure.

Rotterdam lies on the north side of the Maes, about fifteen miles from the sea, is of a triangular form, and in point of trade, inferior only to Amsterdam; in the spaciousness of the streets, and elegance of the houses infinitely beyond it. The canals are so large as to admit ships of two or three hundred tons, even to the very doors of the merchants; and I know not so romantic a sight, as to see from the environs, the chimnies, masts of ships, and the tops of trees, so promiscuously huddled together, that it would require a degree of divination to tell whether it is a town, a fleet, or a forest.

The

The grandest, as well as most agreeable street in Rotterdam, is the Bomb Quay, which lies parallel with the Maes; on one side it is open to the river, and the other is ornamented with a grand façade of the best houses in the city, inhabited chiefly by the English. It is so broad, that there are distinct walks for carriages, and foot passengers, lined and shaded with a double row of trees---You look over the river on some beautiful meadows, and a fine avenue of trees, which leads to the Pest-house: It seems to be an elegant building, and the trees round it are so disposed as to appear a thick wood.

This street is at least half a mile in length, and extends from the Old to the New head, the two places where the water enters to fill the canals of this extensive city. I must observe, that when water runs through a street, it then assumes the name of a canal; of which kind the Heeren-fleet has the pre-eminence: the houses are of free-stone, and very lofty; the canal is spacious, and covered with ships: at one end stands the English church, a neat pretty building, of which the Bishop of London is Ordinary.

Upon

Upon the Great Bridge, in the Grand Market place, is the statue of that wonderful man Erasmus; it is bigger than the life, in brass, clad in a Doctor's gown, and holding a book in his hand. He was born in 1467, and died at Friburgh in Alsace, in the year 1536.

Near to the market-place is the great church of St. Laurence; from the tower I had as extensive a view as my eye could command, there being neither hill nor wood to intercept my sight. I saw Delft and the Hague to the north; Dort, to the south; Brill, to the west; Amsterdam, to the east, and Utrecht lies off to the south-east.

There are four churches in Rotterdam of the established religion, which is the Calvinist, and twelve clergymen to attend them, whose stipends are one hundred and seventy pounds per annum each, which is paid out of the revenues of the city. St. Laurence is like all other Dutch churches, divested of ornament, gloomy, and dark, by reason of the numberless atchievements which are hung every where round the walls, and which are in

in general of black velvet with the arms blazoned, encompassed in a heavy black frame. The naves of the churches, are filled with common rush-bottomed chairs, and the isles with little square wooden boxes perforated, into which, in the cold season, are put small stoves, and then they quit the isles for more agreeable quarters, under the petticoats of the ladies. The altar of this church is divided from the nave with a brass bullastrade and heavy pillars of marble.

Among many epitaphs, there was one curious enough to be taken down in writing :

Inviæti Herois

Johannis a Brakell

Prætoris, ut dicunt nocturni

Manib : ac. Mem : Sacrum :

Hoc tegitur Saxo, Barkelius Æquoris

Horror,

Cui Flamma, et Ferrum, cessit et

Unda Maris.

Fallimur, an Flammas nunc vomit,

adspice jam, jam,

\* *Ferrea* qui rupit *Vincula*, rumpit  
humum.

\* Alluding to his breaking through the iron chains, that were stretched across the river Medway.

I look



I look on the Exchange, which was finished in 1736, to be the finest building in Rotterdam: it is a quadrangle of free stone, with a light cloister; is much neater, though nothing like so large, as our Royal Exchange.

The Weese-house, for orphan children, is likewise a very handsome edifice of free-stone, with twenty windows in front; it maintains three hundred boys, and as many girls, who are taught to read, write, work, and to be both useful and good members of society.

There are two other considerable charities in this town; the one for old men, the other for old women; and there is likewise an infirmary.

We last night hired a coach, which is fixed at a gilder an hour, to take us to Delfts-Hagen, a little village about half of an hour's distance. The road was very pleasant, being planted on each side with trees: there was nothing sufficiently curious in the place itself to drag us from Rotterdam; but it being a public fair, we wished to see the humours of a Dutch Wake. Childrens' toys and women's

men's slippers seemed to make the chief figure, there being little else to be sold.

We followed the sound of a fiddle into a little ale-house, and walked up stairs into a room full of peasants and tobacco. There were four girls jumping about, which they called dancing, and thirty or forty men sitting round with their pipes and tobacco, admiring the activity of the nymphs, and rolling out such clouds of smoke, that we were soon obliged to withdraw to avoid suffocation. From thence we went to a barn to see a Dutch Tragedy and Farce: two of the actresses were tolerably pretty; but Dutch, even from the mouth of beauty, would be an antidote to Love. It was late in the evening before we got home, notwithstanding which, I have risen very early this morning, to write you thus circumstantially the journal of the last three days. We purpose leaving Rotterdam this morning, having seen every thing said to be worthy our attention; I am called to breakfast, can therefore only add, that we are at the Swine's Hoof, which is well situated, being in the middle of the Market-place. This

This house is much frequented by the English : a good ordinary both for dinner and supper, where we have met with very genteel people---I should recommend you, by all means, to this inn.

I am, Dear Sir,

Most sincerely yours.

Sunday Evening, Aug. 6.

Secretary Fagel's Summer-House, near the Hague.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE found leisure, when I least expected it, and pen ink and paper in a place where I have taken refuge from a storm. I am this moment writing in a summer-house, in the center of the gardens of Greffier Fagel, who is secretary of state. The fineness of the evening induced us to walk to these gardens, which are only a mile from the Hague ; but a thunder storm has suddenly broken over us, and forced me to fly for shelter to this place, at the end of the avenue : where my friends are I know not, but hope in as comfortable a situation. Instead of a Dido, I have a Dutch Gardener with me, who can  
speak



Eng-  
and  
steel  
all  
gue.  
ex-  
ace  
I  
se,  
el,  
of  
ar-  
e;  
ver  
his  
ny  
n-  
I  
an  
ak

speak only his own language, of which I understand not a single word. I must have recourse to my pen for amusement, and as the storm promises to continue, may probably have time to finish my letter. I confess these gardens are as magnificent as the Dutch gardens can be, where art has lost sight of nature. Here is water in abundance, trees out of number, and a great extent of ground : but the water consists of stagnated canals ; the trees are planted by a line, and tortured into form ; and the extent answers no other purpose than to multiply the dull uniformity.

Grove nods at grove, each alley has a brother,  
And half the platform just reflects the other.

I see many buildings dispersed over the gardens in well-chosen spots, especially a temple on a sand hill, which commands the village of Scheveling, the Hague, and the sea. The house is a mere nothing, indeed it is intended only as a little box for retirement from the fatigues of office, and bustle of the town.

D

We

We left Rotterdam on Thursday morning, returned to Delft in the treckschuyte; walked through the town to the Hague-gate, where we found the boat just ready to push off. The canal from thence to Ryswick is skirted with rows of elms. Instead of going on to the Hague, we got out at the bridge, and walked down to the village, at about half a mile's distance --- The palace is old, unrepai- red, and unfurnished; famous only for the peace made there, so advantageous to the Dutch, by the confederate powers of Europe with Lewis XIV. in 1697. The Prince now and then comes there for half an hour, and amuses himself with coursing hares in the court yard, which is within a wall about fifty yards square. A very princely recreation !

We dined at the Strack-huis, and met with a comfortable repast, which we little expected in such a place. In the cool of the evening we walked to the Hague, at the distance of two short miles, under the shade of a row of elms,

The

The Hague, in French, la Haye, the Hedge, (the Dutch call it s'Gravenhage, or the Earl's Grove, alluding to a wood which formerly grew there, where the Earls of Holland had a country house,) is only a village, not being walled, nor sending deputies to the States; nevertheless it is the residence of all the Foreign Ambassadors, the Seat of Government, and without dispute, the most beautiful place upon earth. On the south lies Delft, on the north the house in the wood, Scheveling and the sea to the west, and the great canal to Leyden on the east.

Monday Morning.

I was interrupted last night, in the middle of my letter, by Mr. Fagel, who on hearing from one of his servants, that a stranger had taken shelter in his gardens, as soon as the storm was abated, waited on me, and invited me to take the refreshments his house afforded. I found my friends already housed, and after sitting some little time, we made our obeisance, and returned to the Hague; I believe I may now proceed without fear of interruption, in giving you an account



of this charming place. It is totally surrounded with a canal, over which are many bridges ; and a row of lofty trees borders the water's edge. The streets are so spacious, and so much adorned with trees and water, that you can scarce conceive yourself in a town ; and there are so many squares and public places laid out in shady walks, and surrounded with such magnificent buildings, that it begs all description.

I will mention two or three of the most striking parts of the Hague ; among which I think the Vyverburg has the pre-eminence : it is a kind of square, consisting of several shady walks ; on one side, a row of magnificent houses ; on the other, the Vyver, which is a large basin of water faced with stone, two hundred yards in length, and near one hundred in breadth ; in the center of it is an island planted with trees : one end of the Vyverburg opens to the Voorhout, which is a large plantation of trees, in the middle of which is the Mall, railed in on both sides ; it is strewn with shells, as are all the walks in Holland, there being neither stone nor gravel in the whole country, the walks are consequently

consequently unpleasant, as the shells never bind, but crumble into dust, and feel like loose sand under your feet. At the upper end of the mall is the Hotel of Opdam, belonging to Count Waassaner; but the most elegant building in the Hague is the New House (which describes a semi-circle) of the Prince of Wielburgh, who is married to the Prince of Orange's sister.

The New Princess Graft, is a row of palaces, rather than of houses, which front the wood, from which they are divided by a broad pavement and a canal. Casuari Street is adjoining, in which is the French Playhouse; a neat little theatre. We were at the Comedy on Friday evening; the actors were tolerably good; Mademoiselle La Roi, excellent: Belcour, the celebrated comic actor, to whom the French King has given a pension of two thousand five hundred livres, was there, but did not act.

I must not omit mentioning to you the Prince Graft, which is half a mile in length, proportionably broad, and perfectly straight, with a canal, shaded with trees, running

D 3

through

through the midst of it, over which are thrown many fine stone-bridges, with iron rails on them.

One of the greatest curiosities in the Hague, is the Prince's Cabinet, which is open at twelve o'clock on Fridays, and accessible to all strangers, who previously send their names: this house was purchased of the Countess of Albemarle, faces the Vyver, and is situated at the corner of the Outer Court, where the horse-guards parade.

In the first room you see a small, but most excellent collection of Chinese swords, knives, and other instruments in gold, richly inlaid with precious stones; and ear-rings, bracelets, and much female ornament and apparel. In the next apartment is a good collection of shells, among which the *Concha Veneris* did not escape my notice; the shape being entirely analagous to the name.

In the third room is a brilliant shew of precious stones, fossils, minerals, and petrefactions. The fourth apartment is filled with various kinds of serpents and small animals



mals: and the last room is ornamented with a large collection of birds extremely well preserved. The Pelican I looked on as the most extraordinary; it is not unlike a stork, but has a bill much longer; to the lower part hangs a bag of a yellow colour, that will contain at least a pint.

The disposition and neatness of the whole is admirable, and well worthy a stranger's attention.

Very near to the Prince's cabinet is the Prison, where the De-Witts (the best citizens the Republic knew) died martyrs to the fury and folly of the rabble. It is singular enough to reflect, that the vulgar, who are so bigoted to liberty, or rather to licentiousness and anarchy, should on this occasion have deviated so far from their levelling principles, as to destroy those real patriots because they opposed the advancement of the Prince of Orange (King William the Third) and wished to preserve their country in its original democratical state.

The Palace of the Stadtholder is situated in the center of the town, surrounded by a  
moat

moat ; its external appearance is not very striking, being an old irregular building ; but a finer collection of pictures by the Dutch and Flemish masters I have never seen ; especially in a little room called the Study, filled by the most capital painters.

The Virgin with the blessed Infant in her arms.---by Raphael.

Adam and Eve in Paradise, surrounded with the birds and beasts.---by Brughel.

Portraits---by Rembrandt---Vandyke, and Hans-Holbein.

A Dutch kitchen full of game fish and flesh, most admirably done---by Teniers.

Many landscapes and fancy pieces by Gabriel Metzu,\* Jan-Steen,† Potter,‡ and Wouvermans.

\* Metzu was born at Leyden, in 1658, and died under the operation of cutting for the stone. His subjects were usually taken from low life ; such as women selling fish, fowls, or hares ; sick persons attended by the doctor ; chymists in the laboratories ; dead game ; painters shops, and drawing schools hung with prints. He finished with extreme neatness---painted portraits well---and approached near to Vandyke.

† Jan-Steen was born at Leyden, in 1689, and was remarkable for his conversations and drolls. His drawing is sometimes censurable, but his design was generally correct ; his figures well disposed, and his characters strongly marked.

‡ Paul Potter was born at Enkhyfen, in 1625, he was an expert master at 15---His subjects were landscapes with different animals, but principally cows, oxen, sheep, and goats, which he painted in the highest perfection.

I look

I look on this room to be complete ; there is not a picture but may be dwelt on with delight. In the next room are two courtezans in crayons, by Bolomeii, the one has a black veil thrown over the side of her face ; the other has a slight cynar over her bosom ; but the painter has made it so transparent, that he has left but little for the imagination.

Abraham sacrificing Isaac, in ivory, is inimitably carved.

In the other apartments, among many fine pieces, you will find a very large one by Potter, painted in 1647---The design is a peasant looking at his cattle, the flies on the cows seem alive, and a toad sitting on the grass has equal excellence.

There are some fruit and game pieces by Weenix,\* well done ; and some excellent pieces on copper, by Rothenamer.†

Abraham offering up Isaac, by Andrea del Sarto.

\* This was John Weenix the son, who was born at Amsterdam in 1644, he far surpassed his father, who was much esteemed. His usual subjects were animals of every kind, landscapes and flowers, with some game pieces.

† John Rothenamer was born at Munich, in 1564 : painted historical subjects on copper, of a very small size, imitated Tintoretto---painted both in fresco and oil.



Two landscapes, by Vernet.

The Sacrifice of Iphigenia, by Coypel---  
This is esteemed his master-piece, applauded  
by the best judges, and was celebrated by the  
poets of the time.

A Dutch room, in which are two women  
and a child in the cradle, which is wonder-  
fully done, by Douw---Sixteen hundred du-  
cats were refused for this piece. There is  
nothing superb in the furniture, nor in the  
size of the apartments ; the pictures are the  
only things which are worthy attention.

On the other side of the quadrangle is the  
Chamber of the States, where the business  
of the States-General is transacted : it is hung  
with green cloth, and all the ornaments are  
the portraits of the Princes of Orange.

The chamber where the Ambassadors are  
received, is of the same size, and looks upon  
the Vyver---At the upper end of this room is  
a fine piece of William the Third : the car-  
pet under his feet has been much admired.

The little room adjoining, is the chamber  
to which the ministers withdraw for private  
conferences :

conferences: It is made most valuable by twelve little pieces, giving the history of Claudius Civilis, by Hans Holbein; for which the great Lord Bolingbroke offered ten thousand pounds: this Claudius Civilis was a Batavian of royal descent, as mentioned by Tacitus, who commanded eight cohorts of his countrymen, at that time allies to the Romans; but Vitellius, the Emperor, charged him with treason, and he narrowly escaped with his life: hence his inveterate hatred to the Romans: under the mask of attachment to Vespasian, in the beginning of the wars between him and Vitellius, but in reality to free his countrymen from the Roman yoke, he diverted the young Batavians from enlisting under the ensigns of Vitellius; this occasioned a long war, in which Claudius acquitted himself as a consummate General; at length, in the first year of Vespasian, he was obliged to submit to Cerealis, the Roman General; on the one side an entire submission; on the other, an unreserved pardon.

On Saturday evening we entertained ourselves with viewing the House in the Wood, a place belonging to the Prince of Orange,  
situated

situated about a mile from the Hague, at the extremity of the wood, which is chiefly of oak. This is about a mile in extent, but not above half as wide: it is the only wood in Holland, except a small one at the gates of Harlem. The house was built by Amalia, widow of Henry Frederick, the third Prince of Orange. There is nothing grand in the outward appearance, nor superb in the apartments; it was meant for a place of retirement, not for a palace. The saloon, which is the only good room, is of octagonal form, with a dome painted, and a cupola, round which is a gallery for the music. This apartment is covered with paintings, admirably well done, by different hands; but Vulcan's forge, near the chimney, points out the master to be Rubens.

On each side of the saloon are the Prince and Princess's apartments, consisting of a suite of three rooms, bed-chamber, dressing room, and closet. Round the Princess's bed is a rail of Japan, inlaid with mother of pearl, which cost three thousand pounds. The doors of the dressing room are painted with full  
length



length figures ; the Japan closet is wainscoted with Japan ; and there are little doors in different parts of it which slide back, and shew you some curious Chinese figures fixed in recesses of six or eight inches square.

The common dining room is full of pictures, by the Princess Anne daughter of George II. and mother to the present Prince of Orange ; they are better done than might have been expected from a Princess.

The chimney pieces are of marble, ill executed and heavy. The garden even in the Dutch taste has little or no merit ; but the wood is disposed in pretty walks, did not the loose sand make the walking on them intolerable.

Yesterday morning we walked down to Scheveling a fishing village about two miles from hence. The road is cut through the Sand-hills, which appear to me to be the derelicts of the ocean. The center for carriages is nicely paved ; the foot path on each side is of sand, covered with sea shells, which answer the purpose of gravel : a double row of trees screens you totally from the sun,

E

and

and gives a most agreeable gloom. This walk is a straight line, and the steeple of Scheveling closes the avenue: you do not see the sea till you are within a few yards of it, when the main ocean opens to your view. It was singular to me, who have been used to see the beach covered with gravel and rocks, to behold here nothing but sand and shells, which the sea throws up in incredible quantities. A shower of rain hastened us back again much sooner than we intended, and deprived us of the pleasure of seeing Portland Gardens, which join to the road; but we have taken advantage of the cool of the morning to walk down to those agreeable gardens; they are only half a mile from the gate that leads to Scheveling to the left of the road. There is a fine Orangerie in the form of an amphitheatre, in the center of which is a musick room. These gardens, or rather pleasure grounds, are very extensive and extremely elegant: serpentine walks, artificial hill and dale, much verdure, thickets, and many forest trees, with seats and statues well disposed, all assure you, that the master is indebted to the English, for the superiority he has gained over

over the miserable taste of his countrymen. His son Mr. Bentinck is now a Captain of an English man of war.

There are some Jet-Eaus, which are childish; remnants, I suppose, of Dutch humour; for instance, as you walk over a bridge nicely paved, by turning a cock, a thousand little fountains play up through the interstices of the stones: again, at the end of one of the walks is a chair, from the seat of which springs a fountain the moment you have seated yourself, to the refreshment perhaps of your body in a warm day, but to the utter demolition of your clothes.

The grotto is done in much better taste; the moment you enter it, the water flows from the threshold in a number of little streams; and from the four corners of the grotto fountains spring through the rock-work, with force sufficient to strike the top, which fall down into large shells, in such manner, that you doubt whether the water rises from the floor, or drops from the ceiling.



As we came back, we looked into the Great Church, which has nothing remarkable in it, but the tomb of Admiral Waassanaars, Baron D'Opdam ; his ship was blown up by the English, under the command of the Duke of York, in 1666. Round this church we saw many storks walking about as tame as our turkies ; they are somewhat in shape like a heron ; their colour is white, their wings are tipped with black ; they live upon the offal of the fish market, which is near the church. I have seen numbers of them in the meadows, though they are esteemed birds of passage, and at this season they are not very common. The vulgar error is, that these birds are so fond of Liberty, that they will live only in a republick ; I am sure, in point of policy, they cannot live in a more desirable country, as they have fish and frogs in abundance for their food, and the utmost security for themselves, it being deemed a crime to mal-treat or kill them.

I do not recollect any thing more, that is worth relating ; I have sitten till I am re-  
walk,

vered indeed from the fatigue of my morning's walk, but am most horribly tired with writing---I am summoned to dinner---shall go to Leyden in the evening.

Adieu !

Hague,  
Monday Noon,  
7th August.

E 3

DEAR

DEAR SIR,

ON Monday evening we went in the treckschuyte to Leyden with a Dutch General we had lived with at the Table d'Hote at the Hague; the distance was only ten miles; but the whole canal being edged with summer houses and gardens, belonging to the inhabitants of those towns, who in the summer retire to these little boxes, made the scene appear most beautiful, and the distance, nothing.

When we arrived at the inn we were recommended to, we found it filled by the French Ambassador and his train; and for want of an interpreter we wandered about the town till it was dark, and met with two or three disagreeable circumstances, which made me lament my ignorance of the Dutch language; but at length we found the Golden Ball, an English house, and with my wants vanished my desire of talking Dutch.

Leyden



Leyden is esteemed, in point of size, the second city in Holland, but its trade is now inconsiderable, which in the woollen manufactory was formerly very extensive.

The city is surrounded with a rampart and a wide canal. The Esplanade, and the Fosse, are adorned with rows of trees which environ the town, with a pleasant walk at the water's edge, from whence you look over some rich meadows. In the center of the town stands a Tumulus of considerable height, surrounded by a brick wall, from whence you have a tolerable view of the city: it is called the Berg, or Hengist's castle; was built by Hengist the Saxon, as a trophy for his conquest of England.

The most elegant street is the Broad Street, which runs from the Hague gate to the Utrecht gate: it is a little on the curve, which adds I think much to its beauty: the pavement is extremely fine, and the street rises in the center like the new paved streets in London: is very spacious, as indeed are most of the streets in Leyden. Among the  
canals

canals the Rapinbury is the most beautiful: the houses are magnificent: the bridges stone, with iron rails; and there are trees on each side of the canal. It is said that there are an hundred and forty-five bridges, and an hundred and eighty streets within the city of Leyden. The Old Rhine runs through this town, and loses itself in the little village of Catwick, which lies in the neighbourhood.

The University is the most renowned of the five \* which are in the United Provinces, and is the most ancient, being founded in 1575 by the States as a reward to the inhabitants for defending themselves against the Spaniards during a six months siege; in which they suffered all the horrors of war, and extremities of famine.

The Academy abounds with many curiosities; it is there the professors read lectures to the students who lodge in the town, and

* The five Universities are,		A. D.
1	Leyden in Holland	1575.
2	Utrecht - -	1636.
3	Franeker in Friesland	1584.
4	Groninghen - -	1614.
5	Harderwick in Guelderland	1648.

are

are not distinguished by any academical habit. It is there that the learned Scaliger, Leipsius, Salmasius and Boerhaave, gained so much reputation by their lectures, and brought students from all parts of Europe to attend them.

The Physic Garden, for aught I know, may be curious; but as I scarce know an Aloe from a Sensitive Plant, I cannot pretend to determine; there seemed to be a very great variety, nicely arranged and taken great care of. I saw two little trees in pots; the one was the green, the other the bohea tea: the first has a sharp narrow leaf, the other is much larger, and is round towards the end.

The coffee tree grows with a single leader exactly like the branch of a vine; the leaf is not very unlike the leaf of the orange tree, to which the flower bears some resemblance.

On one side of these gardens is a very curious collection of antique marbles, given by Gerard Papenbrochius, a Burgomaster of Amsterdam. I cannot omit mentioning the statues of Hercules, of Bacchus leaning on a fawn



a fawn attended by a tyger, of an Abundantia as big as the life, and of a naked Apollo; all which have especial merit.

Adjoining to the statues is the Natural Philosophy School, in which the lectures are read: you will find in it a good collection of natural curiosities: some very fine petrefactions; in particular, a piece of oak, one side of which has been polished, and vies both in hardness and colour with an agate. Some curious pieces of chrystal, formed by nature to an apex, with six angles, as exact and as finely polished as if the production of art. A fish called the Medusa's head, from a thousand little fibres darting out from its body in a circle like twisted rays: this, in itself is very curious; but the exact representation of it in a natural agate is much more so.

But I think one of the greatest curiosities was the asbestos, from Transylvania: it is a stone with a soft down on it like velvet, of a dove colour; of this is made both paper and linen; we saw samples of both: the very peculiar property of it is, that the fire has no effect on it,

it, for it still continues its form unchanged, and unconfumed.

Among the beasts was an ermin, about the size and shape of a weasel : this little animal is so fearful of dirting its skin, that it will sooner lose its liberty than its cleanliness:

There was a kind of toad, which brings forth its young from its back : on observing it, we perceived infinite numbers of young toads adhering to the back, which appeared like the broken scales of a fish.

The toad fish from America is an extraordinary creature ; it is for the first six months a toad, then changes by degrees into a fish : this had half completed its transformation, having the tail of a fish, with the head and fore parts of a toad.

The Penna Marina belongs to the animal species : it is the production of the ocean ; looks like a plant ; and is nothing more than a stem of about two inches long, with a kind of feather at the end of it, not unlike a quill with part of the feather cut off.

Among

Among the feathered race, the most curious was the *Hydrocorax Indicus*; the only one in Europe; larger than a turkey--black, *Rostro unicorni, cornu recurvo*--if I may express myself in the technical terms of Ornithology.

The *Casuari* is likewise black, and in size equal to an ostrich.

There was an immense beast, called the *Hyppotamus*, as large as an elephant, its colour black; with a row of grinders in the interior part of its mouth, besides a good number in front.

From the Academy you cross the Rapin-bury to the Public Library; there are some valuable portraits of their literati; in particular, an original of Erasmus, by Hans Holbein. They have done us the honour to give place in their library to the *Sçavans Anglois*, in busts of ivory.

I was a little surprized to see among my learned countrymen, Marvel and Ludlow; none but Dutchmen could have introduced them into the company of Locke and Milton.

There



There are vast piles of civil law, and a considerable number of manuscripts, but these excepted, it can be called but an indifferent collection. Near to the library is the Anatomy School, in which are many curiosities : some Roman antiques, such as an Urna feralis, in red potter's clay, the same as our earthen utensils : a Lucerna Sepulchralis, which was the perpetual lamp used by the Romans : it is made with four spouts, and rises up in the middle in a conical form.

There was the egg of a crocodile, which is of a brown colour and of a hard substance ; the inside looked like cedar wood.

From the Anatomy School we went to the Stadt-house, which is situated in the Broad-Street, and has a long front, in the true stile of Dutch architecture. The famous picture of the Day of Judgment by Luke of Leyden,\* is preserved in one of the chambers of the

F                      Stadt-house :

\* Lucas van Leyden died in 1533, aged 39 ; he painted not only in oil, but in distemper, and on glass, and was full as eminent for engraving as for painting. His genius exerted itself so early, that before he was 15 he painted the history of St. Hubert, which procured him the greatest applause :

Stadt-house : it is painted on wood, in three compartments, which by the help of hinges, fold together and protect the piece.

In the grand compartment, you see our Saviour enthroned on the center of a rainbow, the extremities of which lose themselves imperceptibly in the clouds ; the twelve elders are seated on each side ; below, there is a group of mortals who have received judgment, which you may easily discern, by the suspense and anxiety so strongly impressed on their countenances. On one side of this group you see those who have received the reward of their virtue, escorted by the good angels, who are flying into the heavens with the just. On the other side are some of the oddest looking devils that the most luxuriant imagination can conceive ; especially one  
with

plause : his tone of colouring is good, his attitudes (allowing for the stiff German taste) are well enough, his figures have a considerable expression, and his pictures are highly finished. He endeavoured to proportion the strength of his colouring to the different degrees of distance in which his objects were placed ; for in that age the true principles of perspective were but little known. As he had no instructor in this branch, he was consequently incorrect, with regard to the proportional height of his figures to their distances, so as to appear a mannerist.

with the head of a cow, and with two long meagre dugs hanging down to the middle--- It is impossible to behold this fiend without horror. These are employed in dragging away the condemned, by the hair of the head, and pushing them forward with pitch-forks. I am concerned for the ladies, but I could not help observing among those who were howling and gnashing their teeth, a vast majority of female figures, with golden tresses flowing down their backs; some of whom had not so far forgot their humanity, but that they attempted to impose even on the devils, by eluding their grasp, and running back towards the mansions of the blessed.

In the next apartment is a crucifixion by the same hand: here you see our Saviour on the cross, the two thieves on each side, and a thousand distinct figures in which the passions are finely varied: prostrate at the foot of the cross were vast numbers of the fair sex, in all the pageantry of woe, with their hair disheveled, and their eyes streaming with tears, but I doubt that they were crocodiles tears, or I



should not have seen such numbers guarded by devils in the other picture.

In this room is a fine piece, by Moor, of the first Brutus seeing his judgment executed on his sons; one of which lies a lifeless trunk, the head rolling in the dust; the other son is on his knees expecting the fatal stroke. There is likewise a tolerable picture of the well-known story of Scipio and the Celtiberian captive; and a large picture which describes the people of Leyden, after being relieved from the Spaniards and the famine, devouring with well executed eagerness, the long wanted food.

As Leyden consists chiefly of people in trade, which is at present greatly on the decline, you may suppose the town to be, what in fact it was, extremely dull; we therefore left it on Wednesday morning, and proceeded on the canal to Harlem.

The Veens or Turf-Pits may be seen from thence, of which the greatest part appear to be full of water, and little likely to be productive of fuel; notwithstanding four hundred thousand

thousand people who inhabit the three neighbouring cities are supplied from them.

This was but a dull voyage, the Sand-hills lying on the left, and Harlem-meer on the right, which is a lake about fourteen miles in length, and of equal breadth; it lies between Leyden, Harlem, and Amsterdam; is navigable,\* but subject to storms, and some melancholy accidents have happened on it; which occasioned the canals to be made from Leyden to Amsterdam, a much longer passage; but the safety of it induces most travellers to prefer the more tedious method, especially as you then pass through Harlem, which is a large city, containing agreeable to the computation in 1732, between forty and fifty thousand inhabitants. It differs so little from the other towns I have seen, that I need only mention the church, which is the largest

F 3

in

\* The King of Bohemia having been dethroned, and driven out of the Palatinate by the emperor, took sanctuary in Holland; in November 1629, as he was passing over the lake, the evening came on, and the weather tempestuous, when a boat ran foul of his, and immediately sunk it; the King saved his life by swimming, but his eldest son was drowned.

in Holland, and adorned with an organ,\* which is infinitely superior to any thing of the kind in Europe. It was made by Christian Muller of Harlem, and erected in 1738: it consists of eight thousand pipes, the largest are thirty eight feet long, and sixteen inches in diameter; there are sixty eight stops, of which the most wonderful is the Vox humana, so exactly imitative of the human voice, both in the base, tenor, and treble, that it was some time before I could persuade myself that I was not imposed on by real voices: there were other pipes, which were equally wonderful in the notes of different birds: and the kettle-drum stop was beyond all imagination. Opposite to this church lives a bookseller, who very civilly shewed us the first, second, and third essays of Laurence Costar, the inventor of printing.

The first is on a narrow leaf of parchment, in duodecimo: the second attempt was on paper,

\* It plays on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from noon till one o'clock. At other times you must give a ducat to the organist, and half a crown to the blower of the bellows.



paper, in octavo: the third likewise is on paper, in quarto, in which he brought it to a tolerable degree of perfection. It is printed only on one side, with a print at top from a wooden impression, of equal merit with those which ornament our English ballads.

Laurence Costar was an Alderman of Harlem; \* and in 1440, it is said, he hit upon this invention, as he was walking in the wood near Harlem, by cutting the bark of beech trees into letters, and then stamping them upon paper, as a seal.

He soon changed these for leaden letters, and these afterwards into pewter, and erected a printing office in his own house; but while he was at church with his family, John Faust his servant stole the printing materials, and carried them to Mentz; where he pretended that he had invented the art, from whence he acquired

\* Philip, Peter, and John Wouermans were born at this place: the two latter copied the manner, but were far inferior to Philip, who was infinitely beyond all his contemporaries. His chief subjects were hunting, hawking, encampments of armies, farriers shops, and all kind of scenes which afforded him a proper opportunity of introducing horses, which he painted to the greatest perfection.

acquired the title of Dr. Faustus, the conjuror of Mentz. The most useful improvement in this art was made by John Mentel, who discovered the method of casting letters. Aldus Minutius, the famous Venetian printer, soon after found out the Italic characters, and was the first who printed in Greek and Hebrew.

In a street adjacent to the other end of the church, is a house belonging I believe to the city, in which are some few good pictures, which formerly hung in the palace of Count Florence the fifth; especially three by Cornelius of Harlem: Herod killing the Innocents, by Francis Hals; the Feast of the Gods, in which the sole of Vulcan's foot will strike you; the other is a Friar and Nun, but much damaged by the damp.

There is an excellent piece of a Dutch Girl, in the style of a peasant, by Hemskirk; with an archness in her look, that never Dutch woman I believe was blessed with.

The Spaniards, commanded by the son of the Duke of Alva, besieged this place in

1573;

1573 ; which being reduced to the greatest extremities, after a desperate defence for ten months was forced to surrender, and two thousand of the inhabitants were basely massacred, contrary to the terms of capitulation.

The trade of Harlem consists chiefly in bleaching of linen, and in tapes and thread. The holland and cambrick made in Flanders, and great quantities of fine Irish are sent there to be whitened ; the slimy water of the Meer being acknowledged superior to any water upon earth for bleacheries. They have likewise considerable manufactories in velvet and silk, which they vend chiefly at Leipfick and Hamburg. We only stayed to dine at Harlem, in the evening we proceeded in the treckschuyte to Amsterdam. About mid-way we were obliged to change boats, and pass over the sluices which are of enormous size. On the right lies Harlem Meer ; the river Y washes the left. It is five miles from this place to Amsterdam, and the canal that whole distance is as straight as a line, but the banks are not built on as the canals from Rotterdam

to



to the Hague and Leyden; which is owing to want of room, the lake and the river being too near.

It is curious to observe the water of the Y, four or five feet higher than the adjacent country; but in fact, almost every canal has the water raised above the meadows.---When we landed at Amsterdam, we found common fame to be no lyar, in respect to the insufferable stench arising from the canals and common sewers.

Amsterdam is situated on the river Amstel,\* and an arm of the sea, called the Y, at the mouth of the Zuyder-sea, and is built in the form of a crescent. It is fortified with a fossé of great depth and width; with a rampart of earth faced with brick, strengthened with twenty-six bastions; in each of which stands a wind-mill, ornamented with eight magnificent gates of free-stone,  
built

\* Over the Amstel, which enters at the Utrecht gate is thrown a bridge of eleven arches, eight of which are shut to enclose the yachts belonging to the city. This bridge is much admired by the natives; in my opinion it is a very paltry piece of architecture, the arches being very high and narrow.

built either in a semi-circular or octagonal shape : in all the chief streets are canals shaded with trees, the grandest of which is the Heere-graft, or canal of Lords ; this is the place of residence for the bankers and chief merchants ; for here every one is in trade, the few nobles of Holland reside always at the Hague. Those streets in which there are no canals, are vilely narrow. The Ness, in which we live, I had the curiosity to measure, and it is only sixteen feet wide : the houses are lofty, and the bridges are chiefly of stone.

The squares are neither spacious nor elegant ; the dam is the largest, in which the Stadthouse is situated, but it is irregular, and vilely disfigured by a weighing house---the others no more deserve the name of squares, than Clare-Market, or Palace-Yard Westminster.

This populous city contained twenty six thousand and thirty five houses in 1732, and is supposed, according to the best calculation, to contain at present, two hundred and  
fifty

fifty thousand inhabitants, \* tho' it was at the beginning of the thirteenth century, an inconsiderable fishing village on the edge of a morass, which is now covered with buildings, erected upon piles of timber, driven into the earth at immense labour and expence: for the foundation only of one tower six thousand trees were rammed into the ground. Notwithstanding these precautions, the magistrates are so apprehensive of the foundations, that very few coaches are licensed. The carriages in general are fixed on sledges, drawn by one horse, the driver attending on foot.

There are fifteen churches of the established, that is the Calvinist religion; which are served by thirty ministers, equal in authority and revenue: they are allowed two hundred and forty pounds per year each, which is paid by the city.

The

\* Paris is said to contain five hundred thousand, and London seven hundred thousand inhabitants. The number of inhabitants in Holland are twelve hundred thousand; in England are computed to be nine millions, in France eighteen millions, and in Germany twenty millions of souls.



The most stupendous undertaking in this city, is the Stadthouse, which you enter by seven small gates, parallel to each other, instead of one magnificent portal equal to a front which extends itself two hundred and eighty two feet, whose height is one hundred and sixteen, and the breadth two hundred and thirty two feet. The building is of stone, with pillars of the Corinthian order : it is erected on thirteen thousand six hundred and fifty nine piles of timber, and was finished in 1655 : on the top is a statue of Atlas in brass, bearing on his shoulders a copper globe, said to be larger than that of St. Peter's at Rome ; and on the center is a cupola, from whence is an extensive view of the city and its environs. The piles cost one hundred thousand pounds---the whole expence was computed at two millions. Versailles cost only eight hundred thousand pounds---the Escorial, one million ; and St. Paul's, one million five hundred thousand pounds. " It is upon record, that St. Peter's at Rome, with all that is contained in it, has cost near thirteen millions sterling."

The cornices of the rooms are finely carved, the floors laid with marble, and the sides of the apartments lined either with marble or valuable paintings. Over the doors and chimney pieces are several historical pieces in basso relievo, inimitably executed in Italian marble : and there are some deceptions in a kind of grey painting, to imitate basso relievo, (especially of some children) by De-Wit, so finely touched, that the most critical eye at half the distance of the room would be deceived.

A large piece, by Vanderhelst, is deservedly esteemed ; it is a feast given to the Spanish Ambassador, by the Burgomasters of Amsterdam, on the making peace between the two countries in 1648. But the best piece is by Vandyke, which represents an entertainment, where you see the portraits of all the considerable persons of the city : an old grey haired man is so much admired in this wonderful picture, that seven thousand gilders were offered to cut out the head.

The Stadthouse is admirably contrived for public utility : here is the Bank, supposed to be

be the richest in Europe; here are the courts of justice, the prisons for criminals and debtors, the chambers of the Senate, the Treasury, the magazine of arms, and in short, all the public offices; with eight large cisterns of water on the top with pipes to every room to extinguish fires. The citizens hall is the grandest, being one hundred and twenty feet by fifty seven, and ninety feet high: it is paved with marble, in which are stained the terrestrial and celestial globes; the sides the roof and the pillars are all of marble, but there always is a something wanting---there is not light enough to admire with accuracy the wonderful magnificence of this apartment.

From the Stadthouse you cross the Dam to the Exchange, which is not to be compared with Rotterdam in beauty, nor to our Royal Exchange in size---The building is of brick, and at full Change, if appearances may be relied on, was crowded with the most black-guard fellows on the face of the earth. In the afternoon I paid a second visit to the Exchange, to see the city militia perform their



exercise; to which every man is subject, unless he makes a pecuniary compensation; those therefore who from their poverty cannot, or from their avarice will not pay the fine, are obliged to serve. Here penury and parsimony were collected together in such various habits (for they have no regular uniform) as to make the most ludicrous group imagination can suggest. A giant and a dwarf, a Falstaff and a Slender, a bob wig and a shock head of hair, in coats of all the colours of the rainbow, joined most heterogeneously together to compose a rank, in which every man followed his own inventions in as many different attitudes and manœuvres as there were men to make them.

In the evening we went to the theatre, which, like all play-houses our own excepted, is dark long and small: the pit is excellent, having seats with low backs, and marked with numbers, to distinguish the seat of each person, by which, both crowding and disputes are prevented; this is the only house I ever saw abroad, in which there are seats in the pit, or *parterre*, as it is called. It is under  
the

the control and direction of the city: the magistrates receive the money defray the charges and pay the actors; the residue is applied to the maintenance of the poor, and to the support of the different hospitals,

Every rope dancer, puppet player, as well as all others who pretend to entertain the publick, are obliged to contribute one third of their profits towards the maintenance of the poor.

On Friday we looked into the Rasp-house, which is a prison for criminals, as well as for children who are profligate and disobedient: the former are confined in a small room, chained to a block and spend their whole time in sawing or *rasping* Brazil wood, or in other work equally laborious. I was shocked at the sight of so many of my species, naked to the waist, worn out with labour, pale with confinement, and emaciated by want. Yet how much wiser this method than the English law, which for thirteen pence deprives a man of life, and the king of a subject, whom the

Dutch shew us, may be made useful to the publick.

From thence we went to the Spin-house, for the correction, but not I think to the amendment of loose women, as every one is permitted to see and converse with them through the rails, which can only harden them in impudence.

We walked into the New Church to see a burial: in this nation of industry time is too precious to be complimented away on the dead who can make them no return; therefore the ceremony of prayers is laid aside as superfluous: the coffin is put instantly into the grave, which is immediately filled up; the relations bow and return to their avocations. The organ in this church is inferior only to the organ at Harlem, The partition, which divides the chancel from the nave, is of Corinthian brass. The sounding board over the pulpit is justly admired for the inimitable carving with which it is ornamented.

From thence we proceeded to the Admiralty and Dock-yard, which are situated at the



the extremity of the quay. The Admiralty forms three sides of a square, in the middle of which is the yard for building of the men of war, the fourth side is open to the water. Here is not an appearance to be feared by the English, tho' much to be admired for the excellent order in which the arms and stores are disposed.

Among the number of hospitals in this city, the Gast-House for the sick, is the most worthy a stranger's visiting; it is an elegant stone quadrangle, at the end of which are some neat little shops for toys, lace, &c. The revenue of this hospital is computed at eight thousand pounds sterling a year, a large sum, but the General Hospital for men at Madrid, contains one thousand five hundred iron beds, and its revenue amounts to forty thousand doubloons, about thirty thousand pounds sterling.

There is an hospital where all poor travellers without distinction are lodged and entertained for three nights and no longer.

It

It is computed that twenty thousand souls are maintained in the different hospitals; which are either endowed, or supported out of the public revenue, assisted by the contributions of the charitable; for which purpose men belonging to the hospitals go twice a week to every house begging for alms.

After supper we amused ourselves at a *Musico*, which is a licensed brothel. You enter a large room upon the payment of a gilder, for which you have wine, musick, and tobacco; there you see girls of all sorts and nations, who do not live in the house, neither are any flagrant indecencies permitted; if you chuse to retire with a lady to her lodgings, there is no law to restrain or to punish you. It is as morally evil to license fornication, as it is politically so, to shut up for life women who have shewn themselves willing to become fruitful members of society.

We found the women equally ugly impudent and disgusting; we soon therefore retired unhurt by the smiles of the harlots, or the snicks-and-sneers of the sailors, which  
they

they are ready with, if a man is unfortunate enough to pitch upon a girl, who is the favourite of one of these savages.

This morning (Saturday) we went to the Portuguese Synagogue which is a large spacious building filled with a numerous congregation: the women sit together in a gallery, with lattices before them; the men sit below on benches with Tawlses \* on, which they throw over their shoulders; and I declare at first sight I took the whole assembly for old clothes men with their bags over their arms.

From thence we hurried down to the Quay where we had a vessel ready for us, and sailed with a fair wind over the Y, to Sardam, † a village in North Holland, famous for ship building, and windmills, which latter seem  
to

\* The *Tawls* is a kind of veil generally thrown over the shoulders, sometimes over the face.

† In the church is a picture remarkable not for the goodness of the painting but for the extraordinary fact it is intended to perpetuate. A woman was tossed by a bull, when big with child, and gored in the belly with his horn; the moment she fell to the ground, she was delivered of a son—they both survived, as did the husband, who was tossed in coming to her assistance.



to be innumerable. Had Don Quixotte in his travels touched at Sardam, he would have found there adventures for life, without searching for other conquests. The first mill we visited was a saw mill, by which forty boards can be sawed at the same time. The flies of the mill are fixed to a large beam, which turns on an axle; in the center of this beam is the grand wheel, which puts in motion another immediately below it, this is likewise fixed on the middle of a piece of timber, which hangs on an axle, and to which four perpendicular saws, ten in each compartment, are fixed; which, as the wheel goes round, are elevated and again thrust down; at the end of this beam are two iron hooks, which catch a wheel, and each time the saws go up and down, it moves this wheel one cog, that wheel moves another, which catches into a piece of iron, and draws it towards itself: at the end of this iron is a cross bar, which presses against the end of the tree, while the other end is sawing, and pushes it on to the teeth of the saw, with a motion proportionate to the dispatch of the saws.

From

From the saw mill we walked to a paper mill, and observed the whole process, from the cutting rags to the cleansing them in a wheel with a constant succession of fresh water which makes it into a pulp: a mould with wire at top and wood at bottom is dipped in, on taking it out the wire top slips off, a piece of flannel is laid on the paper which the next moment is portable and hung out to dry, the flaws being first picked out which is the business of the women and children; the last process is to press it.

From thence we passed to a tobacco mill, in which is a large trough full of the leaf: ten or twelve perpendicular pieces of timber with choppers fixed to one end and cogs to the other, which catch in a wheel as it turns, by which they are lifted up fall by their own weight and chop the tobacco small; it is then laid on a stone table, on which move two immense stones, one within the other, the first spreads it, a machine of wood follows, and collects it into a row, which a piece of iron comes after and divides into a furrow, wide enough for the pressure of the other stone

stone; all these move at the same time, and turn on the same axle.

The oil mill for rape seed, &c. is on the same principles, to bruise them into powder, which is then put into a pan over the fire for a moment, from thence into little bags, two of which are put into a press, one at each end, which are pressed by a wedge in the middle, and force the oil into vases below: the bags are then slipped off, and the dust remains a hard cake, with which they feed the cattle.

From Sardam we sailed back to Buiksloot, a little village in North Holland, opposite to Amsterdam.

A singular custom is retained in North Holland of having a door in every house which is never opened but when a corpse is carried out, which must be brought thro' that door and no other. I think there is something uncommonly solemn in it, and such a door in every house would be an admirable memento to the family. The head-dress of the women is very extraordinary, they have a little hair cut very short and thin, which is  
combed



combed down on the forehead and powdered. The cap sticks close to their ears, under which are two little pieces of silver or gold, which appear at each temple; and a large piece like a broad ribbon is under the cap on the back part of the head.

From thence we took a waggon to Broek about six miles distance, the most picturesque village perhaps in the world. It is chiefly inhabited by bankers and insurers. The houses are of fluted boards painted in different colours, agreeable to the taste of the respective owners. The roofs are of glazed tiles, and the gardens which are before every door are laid out in parterres of various forms and colours by the assistance of shells, pieces of brick, marbles, glass beads, &c. a few trees are planted before every house at the extremity of these little gardens, which are cut into form.

The art of gardening must have improved very slowly in North Holland, for so far back as in James the First's time Lord Bacon ridiculed this false taste, "As for the making of

H

knots

“ knots of figures, (says he) with divers coloured earthen that they may be under the windows of the house, they be but toys; you may see as good fights many times in tarts.

The streets are paved with brick, on which neither carriages nor cattle are suffered, and they are as clean as a lady's drawing room. Nothing can be conceived neater than that beautiful little place, nor more extravagant than the charges at the inn. Some boiled perch and three bottles of Rhenish which is about ten pence a bottle, cost us a Guinea. We returned to Buikflood to our vessel, and as the wind slackened, we narrowly escaped lying out all night in an open boat; for towards the side of the harbour the city is enclosed with great piles driven into the ground, joined by large beams placed horizontally, with openings to let the vessels in and out, which is done without the least confusion. These openings are shut every evening at the ringing of a bell, and we were so near being too late as to touch the beam with the side of our boat, as it was closing the harbour. I  
am

am fatigued with the excursion I have made,  
I have written till my candles are almost out  
as well as my eyes; I must rise early as we  
go to Utrecht in the morning therefore I  
must bid you

Adieu !

Amsterdam,  
Midnight, Saturday,  
August 12th.

H 2

DEAR



13 August, in the Utrecht  
Treckschuyte.

DEAR SIR,

I LEFT Amsterdam at seven this morning, and have for the first time found a Treckschuyte disagreeable ; but as it is probably the last I shall ever meet with, a few unpleasant hours must not be regarded.

We unluckily could not get the roof, and as it rains hard we cannot walk upon the top ; we therefore have no other alternative, than to sit in the body of the boat with upwards of twenty persons of both sexes, from whose mouths nothing has hitherto issued but volumes of tobacco smoke which has made my friends sick and me sulky. I wish to beguile the time by writing, but I gave you so long an account of Amsterdam last night, that I have nothing more to add. Observations you cannot expect from a man whose furlough is so short, that he is obliged to go post thro' the country. Such an excursion  
however

however pleasing to the eye cannot give much improvement to the mind. In little more than a fortnight I have made the tour of the whole province of Holland, visited every town, (except Dort and Tergow, which on inquiry I find not worth notice) and have suffered nothing curious to escape me. My head therefore at present is a confused medley of dykes and pictures, churches and canals, bridges and stadthouses, but a void in respect to the customs police and manners of the people, the only useful knowledge to be acquired by travelling.

I have seen enough to confirm me in the justness of Sir William Temple's opinion, who in speaking of Holland, if my memory misleads me not, says, "that it is a country where the earth is better than the air, and profit more in request than honour; where there is more sense than wit, more good-nature than good-humour, and more wealth than pleasure. Where a man would chuse rather to travel than to live; shall find more things to observe than desire; and more persons to esteem, than to love."

There are some regulations in the police of Amsterdam, which would be well worthy of imitation in London ; you never meet a watchman alone, two always walk together ; by which means they add strength as well as give courage to each other. Many a house is broke open in London, and many a sober citizen knocked down in the presence of a watchman, who either from fear or knavery suffers the villains to escape.

There is another admirable custom to prevent the spreading of fire, by giving almost an immediate alarm. On the tops of four churches situated at four different quarters of the city, watchmen are fixed during the night, who are obliged to sound a trumpet every half hour, as a signal of their being awake and on their duty. On the breaking out of a fire they ring the alarm bell, which calls their brethren to the spot in a moment. Of what service would a plan something similar to this be in our metropolis !

There are few general conveniences which carry not a mischief along with them ; canals  
for

for instance, are great ornaments to the streets, and of infinite use to the inhabitants; but the mischief is, that many an honest man loses his life in Amsterdam, who in London would only lose his money; for the villains first rob him and then push him into the canal to prevent his telling tales; thus charitably easing him of his money, lest the weight of it should sink him.

I believe I have already mentioned the neatness of the people; but in this they have no merit; for the neatness of their houses and cleanliness of their towns proceed from necessity; such is the moisture of the air, that were it not for these customs, pestilential diseases would be the consequence which careful as they are now often happen. This perpetual dampness in the atmosphere rusts metals and moulds wood; which obliges the inhabitants not from a principle of neatness but of œconomy, by scouring the one and painting the other, to seek a prevention or a cure. Hence arises the neatness which by people, who judge only by appearances, is called *natural*; but indeed most national customs



stoms are the effects of unobserved causes and necessities. In this country the mind is perpetually struck with wonder and admiration ; if mathematicians are to be credited, on the measure of the two elements, they found the sea even in a calm, above half a foot higher than the land ; the waves are checked by an infinity of sand hills, which lie along the coast ; add to this natural defence, a dyke of twenty feet high, twenty-five feet broad at bottom, and about ten at top, running parallel to the high-water mark ; this is made of clay, strengthened towards the land with planks and stone ; towards the water with rushes sea-weed and flags staked down, which give way to the force of the waves, and resume their place again, when they retire. Goldsmith has drawn a very elegant picture of this country in his admirable poem of the Traveller.

“ While the pent ocean rising o’er the pile,  
“ Sees an amphibious world beneath him smile ;  
“ The slow canal, the yellow blossom’d vale,  
“ The willow tufted bank, the gliding sail,  
“ The crowded mart, the cultivated plain,  
“ A new creation rescued from his reign.”

It

It is wonderful, that in a country without a stone or a pebble, there should be stone edifices the most magnificent ; without forests, or an oak tree, (two little woods excepted) the Dutch navy is the second in the world ; without arable land, they supply half Europe with corn ; and with a tract of country, scarce larger than an English county, they can raise men and money to make themselves of importance in the eyes of the first power in Christendom.

Facts so extraordinary require explanation, I must beg you therefore to recollect, that this state was founded on Liberty and Religion, was reared by Industry and Oeconomy, and has flourished by its situation and Commerce. The bigoted maxims of Philip the IId. the introduction of the Inquisition, and the erecting fourteen new bishopricks in the Low Countries, the unrelenting rigour of the Cardinal Granvelle, and the succeeding cruelty of the Duke of Alva, together with the Council of Twelve, called the Council of Blood, and the execution of Count Egmont and Horn, were the causes which drove the

the people to throw off the yoke and gave rise to the union of Utrecht. Persevering valour joined to the political assistance of other powers, has been the means of preserving their independence; while the decline of the Venetian navy has made them the common carriers of Europe; and the wars in Flanders and situation of Holland have conspired to render Amsterdam the seat of universal commerce.

Till the beginning of the sixteenth century Venice by its shipping, and Florence by its manufactories, possessed the whole trade of Europe, Persia, and the Indies; but the discovery of a passage to the East by the Cape of Good-Hope and the settlements of the Portuguese in India proved fatal to the Republic of Venice; Lisbon then became the staple of the trade to the East-Indies, and the Easterlings who inhabited the Hans Towns were the great merchants of the North--- They brought commerce first to Bruges, and from thence to Antwerp; which the revolt of the Netherlands drew afterwards to Holland. The Dutch likewise by their success against  
the

the Portuguese in India, and by their treaties with the natives, in process of time drew the whole trade of India from Lisbon.

Their situation is most admirably situated for the trade of the Baltic, which includes Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Poland, and the North coast of Germany; while they send merchandise into the interior parts of the empire and the Austrian Netherlands by the Rhine, Maes, and Scheld. You must likewise consider, that each town values itself upon some particular branch of trade, by which it is improved to the utmost: as for instance, Delft for the Dutch porcelain; Sar- dam for ship-building; Rotterdam for the Scotch and English trade; Amsterdam for that of the Streights Spain and the East-Indies; and the whole province for the Herring-Fishery which supplies the southern parts of Europe. Thus you see the greatness of this country has arisen from a wonderful concurrence of circumstances; from a long course of time, from the confluence of strangers, driven either by persecution or invited by the credit of their government; from the cheapness



cheapness of carriage by the convenience of the canals ; from the low interest of money and dearness of land, which consequently turn specie into trade ; from particuar traffick carried on at particular places from their intense application to their navy from the vast nurseries for their sailors and from their amazing acquisitions in the East-Indies : all these circumstances have conspired to make this little Republick the envy and admiration of the world.

Adieu !

DEAR

Utrecht; Monday 14th Aug.

DEAR SIR,

WE landed at Utrecht yesterday about three o'clock, and a fine evening in some measure compensated for a rainy morning. This place is the capital of the province, situated on the channel of the old Rhine, called by the Latin writers, Trajectum ad Rhenum, thirty miles south-east of Amsterdam, and twenty-five north-east of Rotterdam. It is undoubtedly a most elegant town, but without any public building to attract a stranger's notice. It is larger than the Hague, and is fortified with a rampart, but untenable for an hour against a regular attack; in 1672 Louis XIV. entered the town with his army without a shot being fired; kept possession of it upwards of a twelvemonth, and raised two hundred thousand pounds from the inhabitants by way of contribution; in return for their complaisance, Louis ordered his soldiers to spare the mall, which is the finest in Eu-

rope. It is situated without the walls, is three quarters of a mile in length, and has a triple row of trees on each side of the grand walk. You pass thro' a noble stone gate which leads to the mall, and thro' a row of trees on the bank of the canal, which encompasses the city. From the Mall we mounted the Dome, a tower belonging to the cathedral now in ruins, which you ascend by four hundred and sixty steps; from this height is a vast prospect commanding fifty walled towns with the naked eye.

The Oude-Graaft (the old canal) is very spacious and crowded with vessels. The Nieve-Graaft is inhabited by the noblesse--- these three streets lie parallel to each other, and are the finest both in point of extent, as well as in the grandeur of the houses. In the center of the city is a pleasant grove of trees, called St. John's grove, from the church which it surrounds.

Without the Amsterdam gate is a garden well worthy notice, it belongs at present to a widow lady; it was made by a silk merchant  
at

at a vast expence; there are two costly grottos and some excellent statues and vases by Jacob Crescant made in 1738, which are remarkable for the boldness of the basso relievo; Esther and Ahasuerus, Esther and Haman, David and Abigail, David and Saul in the cave of Engedi, are the stories of the relief.

This city has been rendered famous in history by the union of the seven provinces in 1579, whose deputies met here, and framed that alliance, which was the original constitution of the United Provinces, and which was ever after called the Union of Utrecht---a place that will be ever odious to an Englishman, from the ignominious treaty in 1713, called the Barrier Treaty, by which Louis XIV. was suffered to retain in his adversity, the same advantages which he had reaped from the Treaty of Ryswick in the Zenith of his power; by which all the trading part of England were justly exasperated. For by the treaty of commerce, no higher customs were to be exacted from the commodities of France, than from those of any other country, which in the end must have ruined our trade



with Portugal, at that time the most advantageous to Great-Britain.

Pope Adrian VI. has added dignity to Utrecht by claiming it as the place of his birth ; the humblest, the worthiest pontiff that ever graced the Roman see. He was an ecclesiastick of mean family and no interest, but esteemed highly for his learning, which induced the emperor Maximillian to appoint him preceptor to his grandson Charles V. He afterwards was regent of Spain, and by the intrigues of the imperial ambassador, upon the death of Leo X. was elected pope ; tho' unacquainted with the manners of the people or the interests of the state, and unknown to the persons who gave their suffrages in his favour.

His epitaph written by himself shews the temper and disposition of the man.

“ Adrianus sextus, hic situs est, qui nihil  
“ sibi infelicius in vitâ duxit, quam quod  
“ imperavit.”

But

But I am writing a letter not a history,  
therefore lest you should accuse me of  
pedantry, I will instantly conclude my-  
self,

Sincerely yours.

I 3

DEAR

Breda, Tuesday the 15th.

DEAR SIR,

I Wrote to you yesterday morning from Utrecht, which we left early; our mode of travelling is now changed in all respects for the worse. This is not the country to go post in; for we were obliged to hire a coach and four from Utrecht to convey us to Breda; the distance is only forty-two miles; notwithstanding which, we were eleven hours on the road, and paid five pounds sterling for this tedious miserable conveyance. The country for the first twelve miles was rich and fruitful, and extremely pleasing to the eye; but when we passed the Rhine, over which we were ferried, the prospect grew less agreeable, till we arrived at Gorcum, about twenty-four miles from Breda.

Gorcum is a small town, surrounded with a rampart and a canal; the rampart is clothed with a fine verdure, and shaded with a double row of trees which make the walk delightful.

I saw

I saw nothing worthy a moment's notice, except a line over an alms-house, which breathed good christian charity in true monkish verse.

*"Da tua, dum tua sunt, post mortem, tunc tua, non sunt."*

Neither did I observe much appearance of trade, which seems to me extraordinary, as the Rhine runs so near, and the Maes washes the town. The passage over it in a ferry-boat with a sail, is rather unpleasant, the distance I cannot judge of, but we were above a quarter of an hour going over with a fair wind, which blowed rather too fresh for such a conveyance.

The country on this side of the Maes looked very dreary; wide uncultivated commons and heavy sands were all our prospect. On one of these commons, not far from Breda, the Prince of Orange had lately an encampment of ten thousand men, which he reviewed in person. A few stakes and some fods of earth lay scattered over different parts of the common, which we were told had been  
*for-*



*fortifications* at the grand review; they seemed to be counterparts of our infantile amusements on Blackheath and Wimbledon. We arrived here last night in time to take a little walk, while our dinner was preparing, for we had neither time nor accommodations to dine on the road; therefore we accumulated two meals by dining at ten o'clock at night. We were stopt at the gate on our entrance, by an officer who demanded our names, quality, &c. the first compliment of that kind we have been troubled with, since our landing on the continent; but the guards are ordered to let no stranger enter without being interrogated.

Breda \* is the capital of Dutch Brabant, and is under the dominion of the States General of the United Provinces; but it sends no deputies, neither is it under the control of any separate province, but under the jurisdiction

\* At this place the treaty between Charles II. Louis XIV. and the States General was concluded in the year 1667. A treaty inglorious to England, which concluded a war, wherein the two royal brothers were the only gainers; the king by pocketing the supplies granted by the commons for carrying on the war, and the duke of York by the present he had received from the parliament.

tion of the whole. The established religion is the reformed ; notwithstanding which the greatest part of the inhabitants are catholics. The coin is the current coin of Holland. The fortifications are regular, and the town is esteemed the strongest, except Bergen, on the Dutch frontiers.

This fortress is triangular, the ramparts are faced with stone, and shaded with rows of elm, which extend entirely round the town. At every angle there is a gate built of brick, the curtains are flanked with fifteen bastions planted with cannon, and by fourteen ravelins. It is about two miles in circumference ; the country round is marshy, and often overflowed by the river Merck : the fossé appears to be very wide, and the water deep ; but the centinels would not permit us to be very accurate in our observations.

Near the market-place stands the great church, whose spire is three hundred and sixty feet high, from whose top you have a most extensive prospect, commanding Antwerp to the

the south, at the distance of thirty miles, and Rotterdam about twenty-six miles to the north-west. Within the church is the mausoleum of Anglebert the second Count of Nassau, by Michael Angelo. He and his Countess are lying on a slab of black marble, supported by four statues as large as the life; the arm of one, and the leg and foot of another of these figures are transparent marble and much admired.

The Castle is quadrangular, surrounded by the river Merck, is of brick, and was built by King William; it is adorned with busts of the most famous warriors and legislators among the Greeks and Romans. In the apartments is a great sameness, the rooms being either hung with tapestry or wainscoted with Norway oak, on which there is some curious carving. The pictures are chiefly landscapes very moderately executed. Here are two good pictures of Venus. The one represents her lying on a couch, and the three Graces undressing the god of war; the carpet is astonishingly well done. The other is a Venus plucking a thorn from her foot; she is supported

ported by Cupids; one of them, in tears, is highly esteemed. Adjoining to the castle are some fine gardens, which belong to the States, and are public to the whole city.

There is nothing very striking in the town; the houses are old, but not ruinous, the streets conveniently wide, not spacious; and one canal only which if I had not passed through towns crowded with them, I should have held in higher esteem. Our coach is at the door, therefore till I get to Bergen-op-Zoom I must bid you

Adieu!

Breda,

Tuesday 3 o'Clock,

15 August.



Bergen-op-Zoom,  
Wednesday, 16 August.

DEAR SIR,

I LEFT Breda yesterday afternoon in a coach and four, which was six long hours conveying us twenty-one miles over deep sands and barren commons; about six miles from hence we passed through a neat well-paved little town, called Rosindale; the morning has been spent in surveying the fortifications of this place, for which purpose we rose at six o'clock.

Bergen-op-Zoom is the last and strongest fortress in Dutch Brabant. It is situated on an eminence in the middle of a morass, about a mile and a half from the eastern branch of the Scheld. The river Zoom runs through the town, whence it derives its name of the Hill on the Zoom. The town is small, the houses modern, being obliged to be rebuilt, the French in 1747, during the siege, having levelled almost the whole town. But the fortifications

tifications are so extensive, that they require ten thousand men to defend the works. We sent a card to the Commandant, who very obligingly ordered a serjeant, and one of his own servants who understood French to shew us the fortifications; we wandered thro' the subterraneous passages under the ramparts, and were astonished at the ingenuity of Cøhorn, the great Dutch engineer, who added such strong works to the town, that it is deemed impregnable by *force*. The side towards Antwerp is defended by a half-moon, whose trench is strengthened by four redoubts and by the river Escaut, which communicates with the sea, whereby succours can be brought to the town in defiance of the besiegers---there are eleven forts between the town and the sea with a great number of redoubts and pallisadoes on the dyke. Under the ramparts are galleries of immense length, arched over, which extend to mines thirty-six feet beyond the pallisadoes which are the outermost line of the fortifications. Such was its strength, that it baffled two of the greatest generals in the two last centuries; the Duke

K

of

of Parma who unsuccessfully besieged it in 1588; and the Marquis of Spinola who was obliged to raise the siege in 1622, with the loss of the flower of his army. At length it fell a victim to Count Lowendhall in 1747, or rather to the treachery of the Dutch governor the old Baron de Cronstrom, who ordered a captain's guard from the ravelin of Edem to another quarter, and left there only a single sentinel; the consequence of which was, that in a few hours after, the French made good their ground on that very spot, and forced the garrison to surrender.

This anecdote I learned from the serjeant who attended us. He shewed me the very spot, assured me he was one of the guard, and spoke with that certainty of the fact, that it left me no room to doubt; though our English historians impute it solely to the blind security the strength of the place had lulled the governor into; while Voltaire like a true Frenchman in his age of Louis XV. attributes it to the impetuosity and ardor of the besiegers which surmounted obstacles deemed insurmountable.

We

We purpose sleeping at Antwerp to-night, from whence I hope to send you a more entertaining letter. Adieu! may the best wishes of your heart be servants to you.

K 2

DEAR



Antwerp, Friday night,  
18 August.

DEAR SIR,

I LEFT Bergen soon after sending your letter on Wednesday, and on passing the gate, the guards did us the honour to turn out and salute. The same dreary wastes and heavy sands, which have incommoded us from Gorcum, continued till within a mile or two of this place; but I hear we have passed the deserts, and are now to be delighted with the fertile plains of Flanders. For these last two days I have made a toil of pleasure, that I might reap the fruits of it on future recollection; at this moment I am weary and sleepy, and my memory has not had time to digest what I have seen; but as I know not when I shall be more at leisure, must give you the best account I can.

Antwerp is the capital of the province whose name it bears, belonging to the Austrian Netherlands, and under the dominion  
of

of the Empress Queen. It is situated on the eastern shore of the Scheld, a noble river twenty feet deep at low water, so that ships of great burthen may unload upon the quays, or enter the town by eight canals, which communicate with the river; some of which are large enough to contain a hundred ships at the same time.

The city is much decayed from its ancient grandeur, though it still remains a beautiful place. It is built in the form of a crescent, about seven miles in circumference, surrounded with a wall and bastions faced with stone; the top of the wall is a hundred feet broad, with a double row of trees, between which is a most agreeable walk. The streets are well paved, very spacious and uniform; the houses in general are seven or eight stories high, but old, and in that miserable style of building which disgraces the towns in Holland. At the distance of a quarter of a mile is the citadel, built by the Duke of Alva to keep the city in subjection; it stands on the banks of the Scheld, and commands at once the river the city and the adjacent country; it is built

in a pentagonal form, with five bastions which defend each other, furrounded with double ditches.

To this citadel is only one entrance, which is over a draw-bridge. It is about a mile in circumference, and well supplied with arms ammunition and all warlike stores, with barracks for three thousand men. This fortress has been of such repute for strength and regularity, that it has been a model for subsequent engineers; notwithstanding which the French in 1746 took it in seven days.

The trade of Antwerp is now confined to very narrow limits, tho' so late as the middle of the sixteenth century, there were two hundred thousand inhabitants, two thousand five hundred ships lying often in the river at a time; and it was far from unfrequent for five hundred vessels to come in, or go out of the harbour in a day.

The trade of Antwerp in the year 1550, if the annals of their city can be relied on, amounted to one hundred and thirty three millions

millions of gold, without including the bank.

As an instance of the amazing opulence of the merchants, there is a story upon record of John Daens a merchant, who lent a million of gold to Charles V. to carry on his wars in Hungary. The emperor on his return dined with the merchant, who gave him a most sumptuous entertainment, and at the close of it burnt the contract by which the emperor was bound to pay him a million of gold, in a fire of cinnamon, which was the only fuel during the repast.

The rise of their trade was as rapid as the decline, and both proceeded from the same causes; at the beginning of the sixteenth century Bruges was the mart of Europe, but the war at that time breaking out in Flanders, the merchants withdrew from Bruges, and were invited to Antwerp as a place of greater safety, whose situation was happily calculated for commerce. But this did not last long, for the civil wars breaking out in the Low Countries, and Antwerp having  
twice



twice been sacked, drove trade to seek a more peaceful refuge in Amsterdam.

The established religion is the Catholic; the language Low Dutch, but a bastard kind of French is talked by most of the inhabitants. We lodge at the Grand Laboureur in the middle of the Mer street, called La Place de Mer, which I had the curiosity to measure, and found it to be fifty paces wide. It is much the most magnificent street in Antwerp. At the upper end is erected a crucifix by Quellin, much admired by the connoisseurs; we have been so fortunate as to see a grand procession in honour of St. Rocque. The whole Mer was illuminated with torches, and many hundred people in procession with flambeaux, followed by the Virgin Mary, precious reliëts, the Host, and an infinity of such kind of trumpery, amidst the chorus of voices, *serpents*, \* and trumpets.

There are a great number of magnificent churches in this city, full of valuable paintings,

\* Le Serpent is a wind instrument which is used in all Roman Catholic churches, where the voices are accompanied with musick.

ings by the great Flemish masters. Among these the cathedral of Notre Dame has justly the pre-eminence. Yesterday I spent the whole morning there, and refreshed my memory with a cursory view. To mention all the pictures in this church which are worthy attention would fill a volume, I therefore must content myself with some few, which most particularly engaged my eye. The descent from the Cross by Rubens, is justly called his master-piece, the position of the limbs of our Saviour is wonderful to behold; the varied expressions of the same passions in the different countenances of the weeping matrons surpass our imagination; all the figures are as big as the life; among them he has introduced his three wives, his daughter, and himself.

The fall of the Angels by Floris ranks next in my esteem. On the thigh of one of the fallen angels is a large hornet, painted by Quintin Matzys, the noted blacksmith of Antwerp, who fell in love with the daughter of Floris and demanded her in marriage; the painter refused him, because he was not of  
his

his own profession. Matzys therefore changed his hammer for the pallet, and studied under the Italian masters for two years; on his return he painted this hornet unknown to Floris, who by mistake was going to brush it off, thinking it alive; he was so pleased with the execution of it, that he immediately gave him his daughter in marriage; Matzys was buried on the outside of the western door of the church, where there is a plain stone with this epitaph:

*Connubialis amor de mulcibre fecit Appellem.*

I cannot omit mentioning a picture by Michael Coxie; it represents St. Ann surrounded with a vast group of women and naked children in attitudes the most pleasing; one little boy at his mother's breast it is impossible to forbear looking at, there is that pleasure and vivacity in the eye, mixed with an eagerness which nothing but the picture can give you an idea of.

This church is rich in marble as well as pictures, is five hundred feet by two hundred  
and

and thirty, and the spire rises to the amazing height of four hundred and sixty six feet, and is esteemed the finest in the world.

The Town-house is a handsome square building with a fine portal which comprehends the five orders of architecture. Within are many excellent pictures, among which a game and fruit-piece by Snyers, where is a bason of mulberries that cannot pass unobserved.

From thence it is a short step to the Jesuits church; the façade is enriched with statues and other ornaments, under the direction and from the designs of the great Rubens. This church is a perfect piece of architecture if tried by the nicest rules; it is lined with marble throughout.

The sodality is covered with pictures by Vandyke, Eyckens, Quellin, and other capital masters; the spaces between the pictures are lined with the richest marbles; over the door is a much admired head of an angel in marble by Quellin, which was saved from the ruins of the church when it was burnt down.

The



The room under the sodality is well covered with pictures, which you will find worth your seeing.

In the church of St. Waldburge there is an excellent piece of Rubens's over the altar in three compartments. The history of it is the erection of the cross; the distress in the countenances of the Virgin and St. John is strongly marked.

The church of St. James is remarkable for its size, for the tomb of Rubens who died in 1640, and for a picture of his painting in which he has portrayed himself under the figure of St. George.

The Exchange is an oblong square in the center of four large streets; its size is a hundred and ninety-four by a hundred and fifty-four feet. There is nothing striking in the building, but you will find some good pictures in the saloon, two of which are by Rubens, in one he has introduced his own portrait. At the end of the Exchange is a neat little Theatre, where plays are acted during  
the

carnival. Here likewise is the School of the Academicians, where there are a great number of drawings, which have been left by those who obtained the prizes. In the room adjacent is an excellent piece by Snyers, the bird's nest will point it out to you.

From thence we went to the Convent of the Carmelites; in the church is a chapel dedicated to the Virgin, with the roof arched, lined throughout with marble, and enriched with a statue of the Virgin, in massy silver, six feet and a half high.

The Abbey of St. Michael is the grandest in the city, the refectory is covered with pictures by Quellin, most admirably executed. There is a deception of a stair-case with a fish lying on one of the steps, which must attract every eye. In the church is a grand piece by Rubens, the adoration of the Magi, which he finished in thirteen days. The apartments of the abbot are well worthy of a prince; I know not a more magnificent place. Such a profusion of capital pictures by the best Flemish and Italian masters; with paintings

L

tings to imitate basso rilievo executed in a stile to deceive an artist. Having seen every thing that was curious, our valet carried us to the public Magazine, where we were to be regaled in his estimation with the greatest curiosity in the city; you will be as much surprised as I was, when I tell you there was nothing but some paste-board giants thirty feet high, with whales and elephants of the same materials, which are carried in procession thro' the streets on grand days; I can say nothing of their women, for they entirely hide their faces with a kind of black veil; the better sort wear long white cloaks, with the heads so large that their faces were effectually concealed

From your friend.

18 August.

DEAR

Brussels, Wedn. day,  
23 August.

DEAR SIR,

WE left Antwerp Saturday last at seven in the morning, dined at Mechlin, which is midway between Antwerp and Brussels; situated in the heart of Brabant, capital of the lordship of Mechlin, and was erected into an archbishoprick in the sixteenth century, by Paul IV. The prelate's title is Primate of the Low Countries.

Mechlin stands on the rivers Dyle and Demer, which are united before they reach the city. The Market-place is spacious, the streets tolerably wide, but the houses are old and vilely built; the fortifications are trifling, and incapable of defence. The cathedral dedicated to St. Rombaud is a fine Gothic structure, in which is the Lord's Supper by Rubens.



In St. John's church there are two pictures of great value; the one is the Adoration of the Magi; the other is Herodias with St. John's head in a charger; the satisfaction which appears in her countenance, and the blood spouting from the trunk of the apostle, are inimitably executed. Both these are by Rubens; as is the picture of St. John in the act of being thrown into a caldron of boiling oil. These make three compartments over the grand altar.

In the church of Notre Dame is another piece by the same master, of the miraculous Draught of Fishes. The attitudes of the fishermen are most admirable; and their forms and faces so varied, that this picture alone would be a sufficient proof that Rubens was no *Mannerist*. The grand altar is of Egyptian marble ornamented with a picture of the Last Supper.

The façade of the Jesuits church is the most beautiful in the city, the inside of it is likewise much esteemed as well for the pictures, as for the elegance of the architecture.

The

The roof is oval supported by two rows of slight pillars.

After we had satisfied our curiosity and appetites we pursued our road to Brussels, and passed thro' the little town of Vilvorden, six miles from Mechlin and about the same distance from Brussels. It is a poor beggarly place, the certain consequence of too many religious houses, with which the town is crowded. There are draw-boats which go from thence to Brussels in about an hour and a half.

The whole road from Antwerp is delightful; a spacious pavement, shaded with double rows of trees; with the addition of the river Senne running by the road for the last six miles, and the prospect enlivened by neat villas and pleasant gardens.

We arrived at Brussels in time to dress, and go to the Theatre, which is much esteemed for its size and for the elegance of its decorations. It was built by the Prince of Bavaria in the year 1700.

Bellcour the great French comedian played in both pieces, he speaks well, and acts with much ease and politeness, he filled the part of the drunken marquis in the *Retour imprévu* with infinite applause.

Some of the boxes resemble closets, from which you see the stage, but are invisible to the audience, unless you chuse to sit forward; these have chimneys, and it is not uncommon for the proprietors of these boxes, who are the first of the nobility, to have a dessert and wine for themselves and friends.

We have staid here four days, and it is with regret I leave it to-morrow; the play-house, especially when the actors are good, which they are here, is to me a great entertainment. There is likewise vast comfort in meeting agreeable people at the *Table d'Hôte*, which we always make a point to dine at, wherever we are, for the sake of improvement in the French language, and to wear off by variety of company that *mauvaise Honte* which so strongly marks the English. We live at the *Hôtel l'Imperial* with a chevalier  
of

of the Teutonic Order, a French abbé, a Dutch colonel, and two English gentlemen; add to these a Venetian officer, an Italian who has served under the King of Prussia, with his daughter and an old duenna, the four last I take to be needy adventurers, but they add not a little to our entertainment.

Brussels is the capital of Brabant and all the Austrian Netherlands, twenty-four miles south of Antwerp, and thirty south-east of Ghent, situated on the Senne, an inconsiderable river. The site of this city resembles Guildford, being built on the brow of a hill. Its figure is oval, about four miles in circumference, surrounded with a wall and tolerably fortified; the Low Town has the benefit of canals, which admit boats of considerable burthen.

It is well supplied with fountains, some of which are rather whimsical, for instance the three virgins, from whose breasts flow continual streams of water: but to shew you that the male sex is as charitably inclined, there is the statue of a boy who spouts out water with  
most



most immodest assurance. The stream flows not from his *Breast*. It is called in the Flemish tongue *Mannykypis*.

The streets are well paved and spacious, the houses in general large and modern: owing to the bombardment of Marshal Villeroy in 1696, which reduced the town to a heap of rubbish. The country round Brussels is most delightful to the eye, and extremely profitable to the possessor; for the land within ten miles of the city sells at forty years purchase, and lets in general for three pounds sterling per acre.

The churches are both in structure and elegance far inferior to those at Antwerp. In the church of St. Caudenburgh is a picture by Rubens well worthy of notice. The Great Church dedicated to St. Gudula, situated on the hill near the gate of Lovain, is the most magnificent, but greatly deformed by two misshapen towers at the west end. Unluckily the inside was cleaning, and the pictures were removed, which I heard were very capital. A monument near the great altar,

altar, erected to the memory of Ernest Arch-Duke of Austria and Governor of the Low Countries, was the only recompence I received, there being nothing else to give the eye one moment's pleasure.

Near to this church are the remains of the palace, which was accidentally burnt down about twenty years ago, situated in a pleasant little grove with some few deer, which the people pompously stile the Park. One side of it is fenced with the ramparts. At a short distance is the arsenal which stands on the top of the street called Montagne à la Cour. There is some old armour in it of neither curiosity nor use; except an iron shirt, which no sword can pierce; and a steel shield so finely engraved that the figures seem reflected from the polish, not to be etched in the steel: the nicest touch cannot perceive the least scratch, notwithstanding which the figures appear to be strongly marked, when the shield is held obliquely.

Just below the Arsenal is the Palace of Prince Charles of Lorraine, brother-in-law

to the empress, and governor of the Austrian Netherlands. The present palace is not more than half finished; there was upon this spot an old palace, which was bought of the Prince of Orange, at the time the grand palace was burnt, in which was a most capital collection of pictures, especially of Rubens's which with many valuable curiosities perished in the flames.

The stair-case of the present palace is very magnificent; the steps are of marble, and the balustrade of iron gilt, adorned with compartments of birds and beasts nicely executed in polished steel by Trieste; the ceiling is painted in fresco.

The apartment of the Princess is hung with the Brussels tapestry, which is brought to great perfection, tho' I think unequal to the Gobelins. The floors are all inlaid with mahogany and box. The Princess's cabinet is much admired, being covered throughout with the finest Japan. The Prince is a great mechanick, and has a cabinet of curiosities trifling enough, among which are two boxes, containing

containing all the common trades in miniature.

In the Menagerie I saw some fowls, which were the produce of a very unnatural amour between a rabbit and a hen; they were of various sizes; their breasts and bellies clothed with white fur, their wings and backs covered with feathers without the plume, which rose from the skin and had the appearance of wet feathers; they are all milk white as their parents; their shape in every respect the same as other fowls. I saw the hen turned into the rabbit, the buck was amorous, the lady was not coy, and they gave me repeated proofs of their happiness; the rabbit like many other husbands has almost stript his wife of her clothing, having bit half the feathers from her back. I wonder not so much at this union, as I every day in England see matches as unnatural.

From the Menagerie we walked to the Mall, or as it is called, the Alavert, situated just without the town on the Mechlin road; this is the genteel place for airing both on  
foot



foot and in a carriage. Here is a grand canal, with a mall on each side between rows of trees, without-side of which is a road for carriages.

The Maison de Ville is a stone quadrangular building with a fine cupola. Some of the apartments are ornamented with Brussels tapestry most admirably executed; Charles V. resigning his crown to his son Philip and an historical piece of Charlemagne are framed, and it must be an accurate eye to distinguish them from paintings, so lively are the colours, and the features so expressive; in one part of the tapestry is introduced a curtain of crimson velvet, which is so shaded, that it seems to be real velvet; these two pieces are hung up in the States chamber.

We got access to the cabinet of Mr. Verhulst, a private gentleman of a very whimsical turn; I had the honour of some conversation with him; he seems in perfect health, but has not been out of his house for these twenty-three years, thinking that the open air will be instant death to him. His collection of  
pictures

pictures is most superb. A landscape, and two hermits by Teniers are remarkable, as is a snow-piece by the same hand, where the snow is actually falling, which I never saw attempted before; Teniers in this piece has not sufficiently studied nature, for he has made the falling snow white; in fact it has not that appearance in the horizon, for it looks black, till parallel with some opaque body. The Purification, by Carrachi.---Our Saviour and the man struck with the palsy, by Vandyke.---An old man, by Titian.---Rembrandt, by himself.---A game-piece, by Snyers, in which is a hedge-hog, alive I believe, but I was afraid to satisfy my doubts by the touch, lest it should prick my fingers.

In a little room with glass doors is an original piece by Rubens, in which are painted his three wives. The history of it is from the New Testament. It was purchased by this gentleman for one thousand guineas, who has since been offered for it two thousand five hundred pounds. In the same apartment is an admirable game-piece by Snyers, and a battle, by  
M Vandermulen,

Vandermulen, with many other capital pieces.

We leave this heavenly spot to-morrow morning to my great regret, but our time is short, therefore we must away.

Adieu !

Brussels, 23 August,  
Wednesday night.

DEAR

Ghent, 25 August.

DEAR SIR,

I LEFT Bruffels early yesterday morning, and breakfasted at Aloft, a small town under the dominion of the Empress Queen; situated about fifteen miles from Bruffels, and the same distance from Ghent.

You cannot employ your time better while your horses are baiting, than by strolling into the great Church, where is a good picture of the martyrdom of St. Roque, said to be the work of Rubens; I should rather apprehend it came from Rubens's school, for though it is painted in his manner, it is much inferior to the works of that great master.

The martyrdom of St. Ann is a picture too good to pass unobserved, and the figure of the Turk is excellent. The altar is neat; over it is the Lord's Supper in basso relievo on Italian marble.

In seeing the church, you see every thing at Aloft; you must therefore proceed with me

M. 2.

to



to Gand, or Ghent, where I arrived yesterday to dinner, since which time I have seen those few things which merit the attention of a stranger.

Ghent \* is a large town, with spacious streets and regular buildings, strongly fortified but far inferior to my idea of the strength of it; there are two or three canals run thro' the town which contribute much to the beauty of the place as well as to the convenience of the inhabitants.

The Abby of St. Pierre is infinitely beyond any thing in Ghent; it is situated on a rising ground at the extremity of the town, and consists of an abbot and thirty-seven Benedictine monks. The refectory is superb, and fitter for a palace than a convent; it is paved with black and white marble, and painted throughout in a very masterly manner.

The

\* This place gave birth to Charles V. in the year 1500. He was the son of Philip the handsome, Archduke of Austria, whose parents were the Emperor Maximilian, and Mary the only child of Charles the bold, the last prince of the house of Burgundy.

His mother Johanna was the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Castile and Arragon.

The Library is equally magnificent; the number of books are very considerable; but I could see nothing but the fathers, conciliums, stuff and nonsense. There were some few of the classics and two or three good dictionaries. The ceiling is painted in fresco by Simmonds, and the walls over the book-cases are painted in imitation of basso relievo by Gerard of Antwerp. From the windows you have a most delightful as well as an extensive view of the country. In the church is some tapestry held in great estimation which has been there upwards of two centuries. It contains the histories of St. Peter and Paul in divers compartments, most admirably finished; it was the work of Croyer of Brussels.

The horse in the conversion of St. Paul is the finest animal I ever beheld. Our Saviour standing a tiptoe on a wave is the true sublime, and is most happily executed. A king humiliating himself to St. Benoit is finely done by Croyer; but the pride and vanity of those idle religious, appear for ever in their pictures, their tapestry, their writings, and

their actions. Elimas struck with blindness has much merit; and a marble floor is as nicely imitated in the tapestry as I have ever seen in a picture.

In the church of St. Michael is a Crucifixion by Vandyke, which is greatly valued; he has painted himself under the character of St. John. The dome is small but well proportioned.

The abbot's house is most sumptuous, Prince Charles of Lorraine always resides in it, when at Ghent. The apartments are crowded with good pictures, but three by Rubens are most excellent, the one is Joseph with the infant Christ in his arms, the two others are the heads of old men. One room is hung with tapestry by Oudenard, describing the history of Don Quixote, the colours are lively, and the figures well proportioned, but unequal to the same history at the King of France's palace at Marli. In the chapel is a picture of King David on his death-bed with his son Solomon standing by him. This picture is done by Sartell, a young man about  
thirty

thirty years of age who lives in this town and promises to be a very capital painter.

The Cathedral is a noble old building dedicated to St. Buvon, of whom there is a good statue over the grand altar standing on the clouds, which are supported by angels. Against the pillars of the church are fixed some tolerable statues ; and where there are vacancies they have painted figures in imitation of statues so happily, that it is difficult at a distance to find out the deception. The pulpit is said to be the grandest of the kind ; it is of marble enriched with statues, and has two angels to support the sounding-board. There is a capital picture of St. Buvon by Rubens, in which he has introduced himself his wife and family.

The monument of bishop Trieste by Fiamingo is most admirably executed ; the boys do not yield even to those of Cardinal Richlieu's monument at the Sorbonne. Fiamingo's principal excellence was in boys and the delicate. He had the art of softening and  
the



vivifying his marble to a surprising degree. In this respect he was superior to Michael Angelo, who attained the antique only in strong muscular figures, not in those of youth nor women, who under his bold hand grew Amazons.

The Maison de Ville has two fronts, the one in the Gothic the other in the Grecian style, of three stories adorned with Attic Ionic and Corinthian columns. There are some few fine pictures, as the Day of Judgment by Rubens, and the Coronation of Charles VI. in which picture are five hundred figures, most of them taken from the life. But the most capital picture is Hercules between Virtue and Pleasure taken from Cebes's table; I could not learn the name of the master.

There is a neat little convent in which the English ladies are immured; I saw a nun whose family lives near Worcester ringing the bell for prayers, her veil accidentally flew back, and discovered a face, which would have charmed an Anchorite; such a girl

girl seemed better calculated for less pious  
uses. I am just summoned to breakfast, as  
soon as finished must quit this place and  
proceed to Bruges.

I am, yours, &c.

Ghent,  
Friday Morning,  
25 August.

DEAR

Bruges.

Saturday, 26 August.

DEAR SIR,

WE left Ghent yesterday morning in a large boat drawn by two horses; this was still more agreeable than the Dutch treck-schuytes, as it had an awning over the end of the deck, where you may sit very much at your ease; below there are two separate apartments, the one elegantly fitted up for the better sort of people; add to these a kitchen where they dress you a good dinner at so much a head. I don't remember spending a more agreeable day, the weather perfectly fine, the view of the country delightful, joined to the conversation of a very pretty French woman, who was lively and good-humoured to a degree; we arrived here early in the evening and strolled round the town; in our walk we encountered an English lady, who is married to a native of Bruges, by profession a lawyer. She invited us  
to

to her house and treated us with excess of civility ; shewed us a small but good collection of pictures, gave us some excellent wine and loaded us with fruit from her own garden.

To day we have surveyed the town more accurately ; it is situated in Flanders, and belongs to the Empress-Queen ; indeed the whole ten provinces often pass under the general name of Flanders, in the same manner as the United Provinces are called Holland. It is fortified, but seems of inconsiderable strength ; the streets are wide and the houses tolerably built, but old ; no trade, nor even the appearance of traffick to be seen, but remains a miserable monument of its ancient grandeur.

The place for the grand guard is a tolerable square ; on one side of which is the Guard-House, ornamented with colonnades, which have a pretty effect.

We roamed thro' many churches, but found very little entertainment. In the church  
dedicated



dedicated to St. Salvator is one good statue and many bad pictures. In the cathedral they shewed me a *veritable* Rubens; it may have been touched by him, but nothing more; the picture is not bad, but you may judge of it yourself by looking over the great altar. In this church there is the picture of a dying man receiving the sacrament, which has much merit. The Jesuits church is a fine building, the isles are divided by a double row of pillars, and the nave is separated from the altar by a balustrade of Italian marble, most curiously wrought with many figures of birds beasts and men.

In the bishop's palace there is some good tapestry, but nothing else worthy of notice.

In the English nunnery there is a very neat little chapel; the altar is composed of various kinds of marble curiously inlaid. The nun who attended us, had not taken the vow of enclosure, she therefore was permitted to walk about the town in the business of the convent; a liberty she by no means coveted, and

and if she was sincere in what she said, she much regretted her not having taken the severer vow.

The Maison de Ville, is a noble Gothick structure, and is a fine contrast to the College opposite, which is a modern edifice of free-stone. These two buildings, with a church and some well built houses compose a very handsome square. Bruges was much too melancholy to make a longer stay in; we therefore took a coach which carried us to Courtray, a fortified town belonging to the Empress-Queen. It is of considerable size, with a spacious market-place and good streets.

The choir of the great church of Notre Dame is richly adorned with marble, the sides and pillars being lined throughout at the sole expence of Menlenair, one of the present canons. Behind the great altar is the Elevation of the Cross, by Rubens. The resignation in our Saviour's countenance, the non-chalance expressed in the faces of the elevators of the cross, with the grief of the other figures are most beautifully contrasted.

N

The

The chief trade of the town is a manufactory of napkins, I think they are called damask.

We left Courtray on Sunday morning and passed thro' Menin, the last town under the dominion of the Empress-Queen. It is an inconsiderable place, and very indifferently fortified.

We entered the dominions of the French King, at a little village called Halluin, where we were stopt, till we had paid for a permit to enter the kingdom. Unless your servant is in the carriage, he passes without a fee.

It is about eight miles from this place to Lisle the capital of French Flanders, a place most worthy the attention of a foreigner, whether in respect to the strength and extent of the fortifications, or to the beauty and regularity of the buildings.

The town is surrounded with a treble ditch, the ramparts are faced with stone of enormous

enormous size, covered with cannon and full of mines.

The houses are uniformly built, faced with free-stone, and ornamented with sculpture. The streets are spacious, regular, and well paved. The Rue Royale which runs from the Citadel to the Market-Place, is perfectly straight, is a mile in extent and sixteen steps in width. La Rue de Malade which leads to Paris is equally spacious. At the end of this street is the most magnificent gate in Lisle, it is ornamented with statues, the arch is boldly executed, but the entrance is contemptibly narrow.

The Market-Place is divided by the Exchange, which is built similar to our Royal-Exchange; but the cloisters are filled with shops of all kinds. The Market-Place is a noble square, sufficiently large for eight thousand men to exercise, which they do every morning directly opposite to my window.

They



They tell me there are fifty churches in the city; I have been in many of them, but find but few pictures of merit. In the chapel of Notre Dame de la Trielle, is a good picture of our Saviour scourged, the blood just starting from his back is finely expressed. The choir is of marble, and the body of the church is ornamented with some wooden statues excellently carved.

In the church of the Capuchins is the Descent from the Cross, said to be by Rubens. It is probably a copy of his famous picture at Antwerp by one of his school, but it is not equal to the master, neither can it be supposed that his genius would condescend to copy even a picture of his own.

In the chapel of the Recolets are three good pictures, but the Crucifixion over the altar by Vandyke, is infinitely the best piece in Lisle. St. Antoine by Rubens, in which there is an ass prostrate on the ground cannot escape your notice.

In the Jesuits church are no pictures, yet the elegance of the building is well worthy observation,

observation, and four statues kneeling before the altar are of excellent workmanship.

In the church of St. Maurice is a good picture of St. Druon. A magnificent altar of marble and silver, is all that is worth seeing in the church of St. Augustine. The portal of the Dominican church is much admired.

In the chapel of the Carmelites is a fine pulpit ; the sounding board is supported by flying angels and ornamented with some bold basso relievo. We obtained leave of the commandant to walk round the ramparts of the citadel, but we were attended by a guard, who prevented our making observations. It is detached from the town, and is surrounded with a regular fortification, which appears to be of great strength.

From the Citadel we visited the Hospital, which is as spacious as magnificent ; it is founded for the support of old people and children, all of whom are employed according to their strength and years, in making

shoes, lace, clothes, spinning yarn, and other manufactories, which require more art than strength. In this Hospital is shewn a spurious picture of Rubens's, but had he lived till this time, he could not have painted all the pieces attributed to him.

The Magazin de Blé is a large stone building, and appears sufficiently spacious to contain as much corn, as the city could consume in twelve months.

We frequented the Theatre every evening, which is far inferior to Brussels in size and ornament, but I think the parts are better filled: Caron who plays Harlequin, is a good comic actor; his wife has much merit, and is the first dancer on their stage.

I was much pleased with the play to night, it is called the Dissipateur, in which were some fine strokes of the pathetic between the honest servant and the ruined prodigal. The farce was a laughable thing called the Sylphide.

We

We proceed to Paris to-morrow morning, and by way of variety, intend travelling in the diligence, which is to convey us there in two days, tho' the distance is a hundred and fifty-six miles;

Adieu !

Tuesday Night,  
29 August.

DEAR



Paris, 4 Sept.

D E A R S I R,

HAVING recovered from the fatigues of my journey, I will catch the present moment to give you some idea of the places which lie in the road from Lille.

We breakfasted at Douay, a large well fortified; the streets are spacious but the houses bad. The church is an handsome edifice with an elegant spire rising from a square tower.

From thence we proceeded to Cambray to dinner, which is a strong fortified town in the province of Flanders, famous for its cambrick manufactory. The choir of the Cathedral is worthy of your attention. It is built entirely of marble, adorned with excellent basso relievo in brass, and the altar is enriched with much silver ornament.

Adjoining

Adjoining to the church is the Archbishop's Palace, an awkward old building.

Peronne was the next place we passed of any note, situated on the river Somme in Picardy, it is called one of the keys of the kingdom; our baggage would have undergone a severe scrutiny at the Douane or Custom-House, if we had not taken off the edge of the officer's vigilance with a six livre piece. We lodged at a little dirty carbaret, for it deserved not the name of an inn, where we met with very indifferent accommodations, did not therefore regret the early summons of the coachman, but proceeded soon after midnight on our journey, in which we found nothing entertaining, till our arrival at Senlis; which is built on the side of a hill, and watered by a little rivulet, called Nannette. There are some ruinous fortifications and the remains of a castle, said to be the work of the Romans.

The king was hunting in the neighbourhood, and was to return thro' the town to Versailles in the evening. So careful were the

the inhabitants of their *Grand Monarque*, that all the signs were removed, lest peradventure they might fall on his royal pate. There were reliefs of carriages and guards at the distance of every six miles, waiting on the road which was covered with his numerous retinue. It had more the appearance of a triumphal entry than a return from partridge shooting.

The common fields on each side of the road were full of game, who enjoyed perfect freedom in this land of slavery, and were so tame, that they would scarce move out of the way of the carriages. We arrived at Paris by six in the evening, and had no reason to regret having travelled in the diligence ; as by it we avoided the insolence of the postmasters, and squabbles with postilions ; who like the barren womb are never satisfied and say not it is enough.

In respect to our company, we had much reason to be pleased ; having only three officers of infantry, an open-hearted priest, who seemed to care very little about the hows and  
whens

whens of life. Their behaviour was civil, and their conversation lively and entertaining.

After having disengaged ourselves from the officious impertinence of porters and valets, who surrounded us the moment we descended from the coach, and having obtained a permit from the searchers of the Custom-House to take away our baggage, we drove to the Hotel de l'Imperatrice in the Rue Jacob, where we have an elegant dining-room, with two bed chambers on the first floor, and a bed chamber in the entresol, with an apartment for the servant, for three guineas per week. I confess the lodgings are dear, but the situation is good and the furniture magnificent. Add to this that Mademoiselle Brunett is young, sprightly, and handsome; and her father keeps a number of carriages for hire, by which means our coach is always ready. We pay half a guinea a day for it, and a shilling to the coachman. We have likewise a valet de place, who goes behind the coach, runs in errands, and cheats us when he can.

We



We generally dine at a Table d'Hôte, where we find genteel people, and good diners, the price is different at different houses; but for forty sous a head, which is twenty pence English, we dine most sumptuously on two courses of seven and five, with a dessert and a pint of Burgundy; when ten are seated the table is full. We always sup at home. We buy our wine of the merchant and our supper is sent from the neighbouring traiteurs.

Having thus told you how I live, in my next I will endeavour to give you a general idea of this seat of dissipation, but cannot conclude my letter without telling you I called this morning on Dom. Le P----- des blancs Manteaux, a monk I formerly was acquainted with in one of the provinces.

He shewed me his study, which consisted chiefly of the Fathers in Latin; he confessed his ignorance of the Greek tongue, and asserted that the Latin version even of the New Testament, was better than the original.

Having

Having rummaged over the dusty Fathers, he shewed me his holy of holies, which was a little cabinet, in which were the fathers of gallantry, Tibullus, Ovid, Petronius, Arbiter, &c.

Here I found the original letters of Abelard and Eloisa; with which was bound up an epistle from Foulques, Prior of Dueil, to console his friend Abelard *on his loss*. The title of it is “Epistola Fulconis Prioris de Diogillo,” which concludes in these very remarkable words,

Christus omnia, quæ perdidisti, *multipliciter et mirabiliter* reformabit in glorificatione corporum in futuro beatorum; actum demum regula dialecticorum falsa apparebit, dicentium “in habitum nunquam posse redire privationem.”

Had this consolation been addressed to a Mussulman, the *mirabiliter* and *multipliciter* would have been well calculated for the virgins of Mahomet’s paradise; but that such kind of comfort should be administered

O

by

by a prior to a monk, induces me to think as uncharitably of the purity and wisdom of the Roman Catholic professors in the twelfth century, as the Latin Fathers and obscene authors in the Benedictin's study obliged me to judge of him to day.

Adieu !

Rue Jacob,  
4 Sept.

DEAR

Paris, Sept. 9.

DEAR SIR,

I MEAN to confine myself in this letter within the walls of Paris, and happy shall I esteem myself if I can give you a general idea of a place, so highly spoken of by Frenchmen, and so much resorted to by the English. It is situated in the Isle of France, about two hundred miles south of Calais, and one hundred and twenty-nine south-west of Dieppe. Its form is circular and surrounded with a wall. The ramparts, or boulevards, which extend more than half round the city, are ornamented with four rows of trees, in the center of which is a spacious road for carriages, and on each side shady walks. During the summer-season, these walks are crowded with the Bourgeois, and the road with coaches. On the edge of the walls are coffee-houses, and places of entertainment of infinite variety. Singing and musick both French and Italian, dwarfs and giants, conjurors;

O 2



jurors and drolls, plays and rope-dancing, with a thousand other articles of merriment to amuse both the eye and the ear. But Vauxhall seems at present to be the place of the most fashionable resort. It is a new building situated on the Boulevards, partaking both of Vauxhall and Ranelagh, but far inferior to either.---There is a rotundo, about the fourth part as large as Ranelagh, decorated with lustres mirrors and pillars painted with wreaths of flowers. In the center, dancing-masters, impures, and children, amuse themselves and the company in dancing cotillons, minuets, allemands, &c.---This building is separated from some other large rooms by a gravel-walk of forty or fifty yards in length, on each side of which is a piazza filled with shops finely illuminated. In the middle of the walk is a lofty mast or may-pole, which men clad in sailors habits are perpetually climbing up and again sliding down; whether to entertain themselves or the company I am yet to learn.

These different species of entertainment continue and are frequented from five in the evening

evening till two or three in the morning.---  
The hard-working artizan soon disappears, and the industrious tradesman in an hour or two after makes way for the people of fashion, who call midnight the polite hour for the humours of the Boulevards.

Having mentioned the situation, let me endeavour to guess at the size of Paris. I have walked round it, I have viewed it from the top of Nôtre-Dame, and I cannot be induced to think, that it is more than half as large as London and Westminster including the suburbs. But I must observe that the streets are contemptibly narrow ; few equal to Drury-lane, the generality inferior to the narrow part of the Strand. Add to this, that the houses are six or seven stories high, and many different families, which will account for the populousness of this metropolis.. Yet there is much ground unbuilt on ; for the hotels of the noblesse have court-yards in front surrounded with high walls, and behind most of them are spacious gardens. The river Seine too, which nearly divides the city, branches off with little arms through many

parts of the town, and though small in itself, yet upon the whole must cover a considerable extent of ground. Over this river are thrown thirty bridges, which add much to the convenience of the inhabitants though but little to the ornament of the place. The Pont-neuf is the most esteemed, which in fact is as pitiful as the river it is built over. This bridge consists of eight arches; in the center is a large bastion erected on a point of land, from whence the river divides into two branches; so that in reality this boasted nothingness is two bridges joined together by a mole of stone. On the middle of the pier is an equestrian statue of Henry the Fourth, very finely executed by Dupré; the horse is particularly admired, which is by John Bologna. Almost at the north end of the bridge is a four square building called the Samaritan, which is a reservoir for supplying the pipes with water which communicate to different fountains in the city. About two hundred yards up the stream you see the Pont-Michel which is covered with houses; about the same distance down the river you have a view of the Pont-royal, the most modern and in  
my

my opinion infinitely the most beautiful bridge in Paris. But it consists only of five arches, and cannot be put in any degree of comparison with Westminster bridge, even in point of elegance, much less in magnificence. Having mentioned the number of arches of these, the two grandest bridges, you may have some idea of the narrowness of the river, which is made still less useful by a number of shoals and the sand-banks in many places appear above the water. There is nothing to be seen but a few wherries, and some house-boats of the larger kind, fixed in particular parts for the use either of bathing or washing of linen. These circumstances induce me to look on the quays that are erected on each side of the river as things rather of ornament than use. I must confess, the banks being faced with stone, and the parallel streets with handsome fronts towards the water have a very fine effect, especially when compared with the banks of the Thames, edged with coal-wharfs and timber-yards.

Having spoken of the river, I will now mention the gates of Paris, four of which  
merit



merit the attention of a stranger, as they were built for triumphal arches to perpetuate the victories of Louis XIV. I mean the gates of St. Antoine, St. Bernard, St. Martin, and St. Dennis, which is much superior to the other three, being seventy-two feet high, and adorned with excellent basso relievo, the one side representing the passage of the Rhine; the other the taking of Maestricht. Within these gates are four royal palaces, in which neither the king nor any of the royal family ever reside. In truth, the first I mention which is called the Palace, cannot accommodate a monarch: it is like our Westminster-hall, and appropriated to the same purposes, for the Parliament, for the Chamber of Accounts, and for other courts of Justice. The passages or rather halls which lead to these different courts, are an object of curiosity by the infinite variety of toys and knickknacks which are offered to your notice by the mistresses of these little shops, who attack you as you pass with now and then a word of English, and with such an inundation of French, that a man must have more than legal

legal impudence to run the gauntlet through such a number of chattering females.

The Luxembourg was built by Mary of Medicis, wife of Henry IV. and mother to Louis XIII. It describes a quadrangle, and resembles the front of Queen's-college in Oxford, having a colonnade with a dome in the center, under which you enter the court. The first story is of the Tuscan order; above are the Doric and Ionic: The whole is extremely elegant, but the pictures within are the most worthy admiration, especially the Luxembourg gallery, painted by Rubens, in twenty-four large pieces, in which this great master has comprized the history of Mary de Medicis. You see these valuable pictures to very great disadvantage, the gallery being too small for their size, and the light is so bad that not even a connoisseur can determine on their merit. The picture which struck me most, represented the queen sitting in a chair as just delivered of her son, her face strongly marked with the agony of pain she had so lately undergone, mixed with  
a look

a look of inexpressible fondness for the child, on which her eyes are riveted.

There are three other rooms open to strangers, in which are pictures by the most capital masters. Those that more immediately attracted my eye, were a picture of Charity under the figure of a woman employed in taking care of some little children. This was originally painted on wood which decayed; and Mr. Ricault took off the painting, and fixed it on a canvass in so exact a manner that the most observing eye cannot discern that it was not originally painted on it.

The Rape of the Sabines, by Nic. Poussin.

A Roman Charity, by Guido; in which the light thrown on the face and breast cannot escape you.

The Musicians, by Francis Puget; among which the famous Lully is distinguished, by pointing to the musick-book.

Abigail before David, by Veugle.

Job and his family prostrate before the angel, who is ascending to heaven ; by Rembrandt.

The infant Jesus the Virgin and St. John, by Raphael ; the best picture in the whole collection.

Our Saviour driving the money-changers out of the temple, is a very large and capital performance : The scene of confusion is highly finished. In this piece is introduced a boy with a cage of doves, the door of which is described as open ; the doubt and anxiety in his countenance, whether he should catch at the dove as it is escaping, or put his hand on the door to detain the others, is happily executed. But there is no meaning in our Saviour's countenance ; for by endeavouring to paint his meekness and humility, the artist has given him a face devoid of all expression.

These pictures may be seen gratis every Wednesday and Saturday, from four till seven in the evening.

The



The gardens are spacious, laid out in regular walks, well shaded, and very pleasant, but little frequented by people of fashion.

From the Luxembourg palace I must take you to the Louvre, begun by Francis the first, and continued down by different princes, but still remains unfinished. The grand façade towards the river can never be enough admired. On the first story is a gallery, formed with twenty-eight pillars, which sustain architraves twelve feet long. These are much esteemed, especially for the leaves in the chapters. This front is of immense length, and has a noble effect from the opposite side of the Seine. The quadrangle at the east end is now repairing, and it is the design of the present king to complete this magnificent palace\*. The apartments are given to artists of the first eminence to dwell in.

In this palace is the annual exhibition of pictures, which I have viewed with some degree of attention; but they are in no respect  
com-

\* Bethlem is built in imitation of the east front of the Louvre.

comparable to the performances of the English artists. In the choice of their subjects there is much imagination ; but their colours are glaring, and instead of nature, you have only the tinsel of art.

This palace is joined to the Tuilleries by a long gallery, in which are preserved plans of all the fortified towns in France, and of the principal fortifications in Europe. I have heard they are extremely curious ; but they are hid from the public eye.

The last royal palace in Paris is the Tuilleries, begun by Catherin de Medicis, continued by Henry IV. and finished by Lewis IV. under the direction of the great Colbert. The front is 326 yards long, having three courts on one side, on the other the gardens. The grand façade towards the gardens consists of five pavilions ; the centre is adorned with the Ionic, Corinthian and Composite orders, with an Attic. The columns of marble are fluted, and filled up with olive-brances which give it an inconceivable richness. The gardens are resorted to in the evening by all ranks

P

of

of people, where are an infinite number of benches to accommodate the idle and infirm. These gardens are laid out with the greatest regularity, designed by Le Nôtre, a name more famous in France than Capability Brown's in England. The grand terrace is five hundred and sixty yards long by twenty-eight broad, shaded with a double row of trees. It is parallel with the river ; of which and of the town you have a fine view from this walk. The parterres are adorned with marble statues of admirable workmanship ; and round the grand bason, at the extremity of the principal walk, are the four rivers personified, of colossal stature, reclining on marble pedestals, the whole most wonderfully executed. The Seine is by De Coustou, the Loire by Vaneleve ; the Tyber and Nile are copies from the antiques at Rome. Towards the bottom of the gardens is a thick grove of trees, which in the day-time secures you from the sun, and in the evening from the eye of observation ; for as soon as it is dark, every species of indecency is committed under those trees, far out-doing the Bird-cage walk, the dark walk at Vauxhall,

hall, or Ranelagh gardens. All elegant as are these gardens, yet so little care is taken of them and so little conversant are the French in cleanliness, that one walk which is overhung with a yew hedge, will give you ten thousand instances of filthiness.

Next to the King's palaces, the Palace-royal must be mentioned, which belongs to and is the usual residence of the Duke of Orleans. It was built by Cardinal Richlieu, and by him presented to Louis XIV. who gave it to his nephew the Duke of Orleans. \*

This palace is in the neighbourhood of the Louvre; its outward appearance does not give that idea of princely magnificence which you will find in all the apartments.---In every room you see bronzes in the highest perfection, copied from the most beautiful antiques; tables inlaid with marble, porphyry, &c. cabinets of the rarest workmanship, china jars of

P 2

extra-

\* The Duke of Chartres was born in 1664, he was the son of Philip of France, only brother of Lewis the 1Vth and Charlotte Princess Palatine; the title of Orleans devolved on him upon the death of his father Philip. He married a natural daughter of the King's.



extraordinary excellence;---lustres of rock-chrystal, and an infinity of things worthy admiration. But these are nothing when compared to the collection of capital paintings, which is infinitely superior to any collection I have seen; and I have heard it advanced by those who have made the grand tour, that it is not equalled in Europe. Among such numbers I can scarcely tell you which I most admire, though I have been twice to feast my eyes on them.

The gallery, called the gallery of *Æneas*, from his history, in fourteen large pieces, most inimitably done by Anthony Coypel, will attract your notice. This, like the Luxembourg gallery, is too small for the size of the pictures, and is much out of proportion, being neither wide nor lofty enough for its length. The saloon does the architect much more credit; this is covered with excellent pieces of the best Italian masters.---I will mention some few in the different parts of the house, which gave me the greatest satisfaction.

The

The death of Christ by Carrachi, valued at ten thousand guineas.

Tarquin and Lucretia by Detroy.

The murder of the Innocents by Le Brun.

The flight of Jacob by Peter Curtona.

The education of Love by Corregio.

Mars and Venus tied together by a little Cupid with chains of flowers. P. Veronese.

The death of Adonis : Venus weeping over him, with Cupid falling headlong from a tree in the back ground. P. Veronese.

Joseph and Potiphar's wife painted on brass; the varnish is wonderful; by Alexander Veronese.

God the Father sitting on the many-headed monster, with his arms supported by two angels; by Raphael.

The Virgin with our Saviour and St. John, esteemed the most capital in the whole collection, by Raphaël.---This is a very small pic-

ture in a gloomy room, therefore may be passed over unobserved.

A Holy Family: The Virgin holding the infant Jesus in her arms; Isaac standing by, looking on the child with an earnestness and satisfaction that makes you almost forget it is a picture. By Raphael.

The martyrdom of St. Hyppolite, with her face pinched with red-hot pincers; and St. Sebastian transfixed with arrows, with his hands tied to a tree, are two capital pieces by Guido.

A holy family, but unequal to Raphael's; by Carrachi.

St. John looking at our Saviour, who stands on a distant mountain. Carrachi.

The baptism of our Saviour, by Albani.

Alexander sitting up in his bed with the bowl in his hand his physician standing by him.\* The intrepid confidence in the eye of Alexander

\* Alexander being ill, Philip the Acarnanian offered to administer physick to him; at the same time Parmenio wrote

Alexander, and the conscious integrity that marks the countenance of Philip, force me to give this piece the preference to the whole. It is the work of Le Sœur.

Moses striking the rock. By Pouffin.

Cupid bending his bow, with two little Cupids playing between his legs, the one crying for being trod on, the other laughing at his misfortune. By Correggio.

Heraclitus and Democritus, two large pieces, finely contrasted. By Hispanioletti.

Venus bathing, standing up to the knees only in water, the golden tresses flowing negligently on her neck. By Titian. --- She is indeed a goddess ; for never was a woman blessed with such symmetry, such beauty. If you may judge of the man from the painter, Titian indisputably had the most wanton imagination of all artists ; for you see *nakedness* in almost every piece of his ; but then it  
is

wrote him word, that Philip was bribed by Darius to poison him. Philip attended the king with the potion, which Alexander immediately swallowed, at the same moment putting into his hand the letter of accusation he had received. This is the story on which the picture is founded.



is such nakedness that the eye of modesty would not wish clothed. From one of the apartments, a door communicates to the duke's lodge in the new Opera-house, which is adjoining to one end of the palace. No man but a Frenchman would chuse to have such a riot noise and uproar close to his very doors which must be the case when the opera is opened ; but it is not yet finished.

The gardens belonging to the palace are neither very extensive, nor very elegant ; yet from twelve to two in the summer season, you will there meet all the beau monde. It is the fashion ; and nothing but the shady walk in the Palais-Royal gardens is resorted to at that time of day, though both the Luxembourg and Tuilleries are infinitely more shady and more pleasant.

The Bourbon palace, (Rue de l'Université,) belonging to the Prince of Condé, was built by his grand-mother, (a natural daughter of Louis XIV.) in the Italian style, being only one story high. It describes a semicircle, with two large wings joined to it.

The

The statues of Minerva and Plenty the architecture and the view of the Seine from the windows, make it worthy to be the residence of a prince. But it is not at present inhabited, vast additions being intended which an infinite number of workmen are executing with all possible dispatch.

I did not think it half an hour thrown away in seeing the hotel of the Duke de V-----, son of the famous marshal who gained so many laurels in Louis XIVth's time; but, as Hamlet says, no more to be compared to him than I to Hercules---laurels grow not in the barren soil of Sodom. In this house are some good pictures of his father's battles. But the gallery is chiefly to be admired: It is almost covered with pier glasses of the largest size; the cornice and the cieling all gilt in the richest manner; and over every glass is the picture of a woman, each in a different attitude; very pleasing, tho' not perhaps strictly decent.

Mr. Blondel in the Place de Vendome has a very capital collection of pictures for a private

vate gentleman, which is much esteemed, and is visible to all strangers.

I have now to the best of my recollection, given you an account of those palaces and houses which are most curious. Among such a variety of things which I have still to mention, I scarce know where first to carry your attention; but must take you, I believe, from the house of man to the house of God: I therefore shall begin with Nôtre Dame, which is the cathedral, of Gothick architecture, built in the form of a cross, one hundred and thirty yards long, forty-eight broad, and about forty yards in height; the whole supported by one hundred and twenty beautiful pillars. In the front of the church are three large gates, adorned with a number of figures in basso relievo; --- over the gates of the portal, is a gallery embellished with twenty-eight statues of kings of France, from Childebert down to Philip Augustus. The true Gothic magnificence shines forth in this portal, on which are two very clumsy towers; one of these I ascended, and the very distinct view I had from it of Paris was an  
ample

recompence. Immediately on entering the church, you are struck with a colossal statue of St. Christopher, carrying the infant Jesus on his shoulders. This statue is twenty-eight feet high, hewn out of a rock; an odd ornament for a church. Here you find an equestrian statue of Philip le Bel, armed cap-a-pie, as at the battle of Mons, which you probably will think as great an impropriety as the holy giant. In this church are many good pictures among numberless bad ones. In the choir are eight grand pieces, very finely executed, by Coypel, Jouvenet, La Fosse, and other great masters. The archbishop of Milan giving the sacrament to a woman in the plague, by Vanloo, deserves attention. But the magnificence of the high altar is chiefly admired: It stands by itself in the center of the sanctuary; the massive part is of Egyptian marble, carved in form of an antique tomb. The sides are of porphyry, the front of brass richly gilt, adorned with cherubims, and two angels of larger proportion in the attitude of adoration, borne upon clouds, and supported upon pedestal of white marble



marble. In a niche, is a group of four figures in white marble : --- The Virgin Mary sits in the middle, her arms extended, her eyes towards heaven ; the head and part of the body of her son reclining on her knees, the rest of his body is stretched out on a winding-sheet ; a kneeling angel, with wings half extended, supports one hand of our Saviour, while the other angel holds the crown of thorns. This group is indeed of admirable beauty.---In the treasury are vast quantities of trumpery relicks, and some few valuable curiosities ; among which was a knife, with these words on the haft : “ Hic cultellus fuit fulcheri de Buolo, per quem  
“ Wido dedit areas drogonis archidiaconis  
“ ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ, ante eandem ecclesiam sitas.” This knife is the title by which the canons hold an estate of six thousand livres per annum. There was likewise a small bit of wood, with a Latin inscription, giving by it certain lands to the church. How easy, in those days, (1094,) was the transferring of property, when four inches square of wood answered the end of forty skins

skins of parchment, and a carpenter could as effectually make a conveyance of an estate as the first lawyer in the kingdom!

The bowels of Louis XIII. and XIV. are interred in the choir: --- their statues are in marble, kneeling on the right and left of the grand altar.

As Nôtre Dame is remarkable for the old Gothick magnificence, the church of St. Sulpice is no less so in the Grecian style. --- The grand portal offers to your eyes a double row of Corinthian pillars; above, are sixty-eight columns of the Doric and Ionic orders; to the right and left are two octagon towers. But this noble front cannot be seen to advantage, by reason of the high wall of the seminary adjoining, which I hear is to be taken down to open the view; if not, vast sums of money have been expended to little purpose.

In the inside of the church, the architecture is chiefly to be admired, together with six noble pictures by Vanloo. The monument of Languet de Guerchy, Doctor of the Sor-

Q

bonne

bonne, is happily designed: Immortality is pushing away Death, who is in the act of covering the statue of Languet.---There is likewise a fine monument to the memory of the Dutchess of Lauraguais.---The canopy over the high altar is richly gilt, and has a fine effect from the entrance of the church. There are two shells of uncommon size, given by Louis XV. which contain the holy water: They are called Benitiers.

As the church of St. Roch, (rue St. Honoré,) is the next in beauty, it shall next be spoken of. It is a modern edifice, chiefly to be admired for the perspective of four chapels. The view is terminated with our Saviour on the cross, which seems from its situation at a great distance; a window properly disposed throws the lighth exactly on the cross.---The first chapel is dedicated to the Virgin, of whom there is a fine marble statue in a kneeling attitude; --- the angel descending on a cloud, and above are immense rays in gilding, which give a wonderful appearance.

In

In this church is a tolerable monument to the memory of that great philosopher Maupertuis; and an excellent picture of St. Louis dying, by Ant. Coypel: you will find it in a little chapel on the right of the choir.--- I know nothing else worthy observation, except the pulpit and the rails that separate the choir, which are of polished iron, and of extraordinary workmanship.

Now I am in the rue St. Honoré, I will mention two or three churches in the neighbourhood:---And first, that belonging to the convent of Jacobins, which is remarkable only for the tomb of Pierre Mignard, the celebrated French painter; and for the monument erected to the memory of the Marechal de Crequi, designed by Le Brun.

But the church belonging to the Assumption, which is a convent for women, has many beauties worthy observation. It is built after the manner of the ancient Pantheon at Rome, which is now known by the name of St. Mary's.



A small dome comprizes the whole church, which is extremely neat; and the cupola is well painted in fresco, by La Fosse, representing the assumption of the blessed Virgin.--- There are some excellent pictures round the church; among which, a Crucifix, by Ant. Coypel; the Flight into Egypt, by Le Moine; and a Holy Family, by Boulogna, have the greatest merit.

At no great distance is the church of the Augustins Dechauffés, which is built in the Ionic order.---In the choir are seven large and exquisite pieces by Vanloo, giving the history of St. Augustin. Here is likewise the tomb of Lulli, the father of French musick, whose name I have already mentioned in a capital piece at the Luxembourg palace.

I do not recollect any other church in this quarter of the town which merits attention: I must therefore take you to the other side of the river to admire the beauties of Val de Grace (Fauxbourg St. Jacques), which is indisputably one of the grandest churches in Paris; it belongs to a female convent, and  
was

was built by Ann of Austria, mother to Louis XIV. The front is truly magnificent, with a grand portico supported by Corinthian pillars and adorned with marble statues.--- On entering the church I know not which most to admire, the pavement of marble in different compartments, or the vaulted roof of inimitable sculpture in stone, enriched with a great number of fine medallions, or the design of the grand altar which is as ingenious as magnificent.---The canopy (on which is a crucifix) is supported by six twisted marble pillars, fixed in an oval form and ornamented with a gilt wreath; under the canopy, the child Jesus lies in a cloak with the Virgin on one side and Joseph on the other, whose looks are expressive of the greatest humility reverence and affection. These figures are in marble big as the life and executed in a most masterly manner. The dome is of just proportion, painted in fresco by Mignard, representing heaven opened; you see God the Father in the middle, surrounded by saints and angels; and Ann of Austria offering to the Deity a plan of the church. I look on this as Mignard's master-piece: in the elevated point

of the dome, the view seems to lose itself in infinite space.

Almost opposite to Val de Grace, is the church of the Carmelites, esteemed the most curious in Paris; of this order of nuns the queen herself was protectress.

It is a little gaudy chapel, decorated with a profusion of gilding and pillars painted in imitation of marble.---The sides of this chapel are almost totally covered with pictures of the greatest masters; on the roof is a picture of Christ in perspective, which attracts the attention of the curious; a Salutation by Guido is much esteemed. The others are by Champagne, Stella, La Hire, and Le Brun, whose masterpiece is the picture of the Duchesse de la Valiere, mistress to Louis XIV. who had the virtue at thirty years of age to prefer to the arms of a monarch this little convent, where she retired when in the midst of all her glory, and continued in it till her death which happened thirty-six years after. Neither intreaties nor threats could prevail on her to return to the King; and when he menaced to  
burn



burn the convent to the ground she replied it would be a means of setting the other nuns at liberty ; but that for herself she would perish in the flames. Her picture is in the character of a Magdalene on her knees, her eyes red, swollen with tears, a drop trickling down her cheek, looking up to heaven expressing the utmost contrition and penitence, with both horror and hope blended in her countenance ; her jewels lie scattered at her feet ; the inside of her left hand and her right hand and arm seem beyond the power of the pencil ; and the picture taken altogether is one of the most capital I have ever seen.

In the same street is a miserable convent of English Benedictines, consisting of eighteen members. I saw some of them who appeared not to be more than twenty years of age. In this chapel lies in state that silly fellow James, not yet buried ; for his followers as weak as their master think that the time will come when his family shall reign again in Britain ; he therefore lies ready to be shipped off for England, to sleep with his ancestors in Westminster-abbey.

The



The portal of St. Gervais (quartier de la Gréve) is worthy of attention, though it is so surrounded with houses that you can have but an indifferent view of it. It is composed of the Doric Ionic and Corinthian orders, and is esteemed one of the finest pieces of architecture in Paris.

St. Genevieve de la Couture (rue St. Antoine) a church of regular canons, formerly belonging to the Jesuits; but the King on their expulsion gave it to the royal priory of Couture. The ornaments on the outside of this church are rather heavy and confused: the inside is filled with monuments of fine sculpture.

In the little church of St. Hippolite, (faux-bourgh de Marcell) in my way to the Gobelins I found some very tolerable pictures. I looked in by meer accident having never heard any mention of this church before.

The Holy Chapel adjoining to the Palais Marchand, is a small Gothic structure much admired built by St. Louis. The windows are of stained glass; the colours remarkably  
lively,

lively, and infinitely superior to the modern windows.

I do not remember having seen any other church worthy your attention: I should therefore conclude this long letter; but as the Sorbonne and the College of Four Nations are remarkable for their chapels, will finish with some account of them.

The Sorbonne was built by Cardinal Rich-lieu, in which are apartments for thirty-six doctors, who judge of the orthodoxy of publications.---But the Cardinal's intention was not I doubt so much the cause of religion as of vanity, to erect a building in which might be placed his monument. The church describes a cross and is paved with variegated marble. In the center of the choir is the tomb of the Cardinal in marble finely executed. He reclines on a mattress clothed in a loose robe of inimitable drapery. Religion supports his head, while Science sits weeping at his feet. The figures are as large as life, and it is deemed the *chef d'œuvre* of Girardon. The body of the Cardinal with the mattress  
and

and the figure of Religion, are all chissel'd out of one slab of marble.

The grand altar is likewise of marble, over which is a celestial glory by Le Brun. In the chapel dedicated to the Virgin is her statue in stone, masterly done by Desjardins, or Martin de Jardin, who executed the statue of Louis XIV. in the Place des Victoires. You will find in a little adjoining chapel a picture of St. Anthony preaching in the desert :---he is seated in an armed chair; not a very common convenience in a desert nor a very proper attitude for a preacher; but his hair is gray, which is I suppose to be an apology for his sitting. Coypel is the master and the piece does him credit.

I have now only to mention the College of Four Nations (rue Mazarin) built by Cardinal Mazarin, and intended as a seminary for the education of children born in France and Germany. The front forms a semicircle, situated on the banks of the Seine opposite the Louvre. The building is in itself magnificent, but chiefly admired for the chapel, the dome of which is remarkable for proportion and

and the contour. The mausoleum of the Cardinal is the work of Coysevox ; he is represented on his knees, with bronze figures of Prudence, Abundance, and Fidelity attending. There are three pictures of Paul Veronese ; the Circumcision over the grand altar is well preserved ; but the two others are totally spoiled.

There is a good library belonging to the college, which is open on Mondays and Thursdays.

In my next, will finish the description of  
of Paris, at present

Adieu !

Paris,  
9th September.

DEAR



Paris, Sept. 22.

DEAR SIR,

I HOPED to have brought the description of Paris within the compass of my last letter, but there are so many particulars to be observed on, that I am afraid you will think this letter long, before I have finished the catalogue of the places *à voir*, as the French term it.

I must begin with the Hospital of Invalids, founded by Lewis XIV. for the accommodation of two hundred officers and three thousand soldiers, who here find a tolerable subsistence when worn out with age and infirmities. This building consists of five quadrangles of free stone three stories high; surrounded with piazzas and open galleries over them, which have a most magnificent effect. The greatest curiosity is the dome of the chapel, the noblest structure in the whole city. The grand dome stands upon ten pillars of the Corinthian order thirty-one feet in height. Above these columns are the four Evangelists  
in

in fresco painted by La Fosse. The roof is by Jouvenet in fresco, exhibiting the twelve apostles with the instruments of their martyrdom. The cupola represents an infinite number of saints and angels adoring the glory in the center, where St. Louis is offering his crown to God, this admirable piece of painting is by La Fosse. The dome is surrounded with four others of inferior size but equal elegance; the pavement is of the choicest marbles inlaid with wonderful beauty. The grand altar is supported by six twisted pillars covered with gold, over which is a sumptuous canopy. Before the altar is St. Louis washing the feet of a beggar in embroidery of needle-work of divers colours. The pulpit is gilt in the richest manner; the pictures are indifferent, the Holy Trinity by Coypel is much the best.

From the Hospital a grand walk leads to the Seine with rows of trees on each side. At a small distance is the Military School, founded by the present king for the education and maintenance of five hundred gentlemen's sons, among whom, those are to have the

R preference

preference who have lost their fathers in battle ; at this place they are perfected in the military sciences, who received the rudiments of their education at La Fleche in the province of Mayenne.

Adjoining is the Campus Martius, an extensive plain surrounded with a fossé and treble row of trees ; it is intended for the royal reviews, and can accommodate eight thousand troops with space sufficient to exercise on.

This is at the south-western extremity of Paris, from whence I must carry you to the south-east side, to take a view of the Royal Manufactory of Tapestry called the Gobelins, Fauxbourg de St. Marcell, which is superior to any thing of the kind. To describe their method of working it is impossible. Instead of the threads being horizontal, they are perpendicular. The artists copy pictures which hang before them with the minutest exactness, blending every tint with the various coloured worsteds as easily as the painter can with his pallet and brush. They work on the wrong side, which makes it still more extraordinary ;

traordinary ; an infinity of bobbins hang from the work, which they change as the picture requires with the greatest dispatch. The designs are chiefly historical, and are done for the king.

There are many charitable foundations in this city, among which the most considerable is the Hospital General, which is said frequently to contain ten thousand people : it is composed of six distinct houses, into which the patients are placed according to age sex and infirmity.

In the quarter of St. Eustache is the Hall, a new building lately finished at the expence of the city, for the purpose of a granary ; and it is said, can contain corn enough for a twelve month. This building is circular, of free-stone, and has six gates which front as many different streets ; it is surrounded with a circle of houses, whose fronts are of stone all built in the same style of elegance and proportion.



There are only four squares in Paris, all inferior in point of size to Grosvenor square but infinitely more elegant, as the houses are of the same height, and correspond with each other.

The Royal Square is the most ancient, built by Cardinal Richlieu to perpetuate the glory of Louis XIII. in 1630 : It is surrounded with a piazza like Covent-Garden ; in the center is an equestrian statue of Louis XIII ; the horse is much esteemed, the work of Daniel Ricciarelli ; the king is by another hand.

The French say, to make a perfect equestrian statue, Henry the IVth must be placed on Louis the XIIIth's horse. On the pedestal which is of white marble, are four inscriptions in French and Latin, tending only to perpetuate the name of Richlieu, instead of recording the life of Louis the Just.

The next in priority of time is the Place of Victory built by the Duke de la Feuillade, in honour of Louis XIV, in the year 1686 ;  
the

the houses are in the Ionic style and describe a circle, in the center of which is the statue of Louis the XIVth on foot, victory crowning him with laurels, and four slaves chained to the pedestal which supports the statue. The sides of the pedestal are crowded with basso relievos equally beautiful and ostentatious. The inscriptions are in Latin verse, by Sanreuil, the most bombast nonsense that ever disgraced poetry.

The Place of Louis le Grand, or La Place de Vendome, was erected in 1699. to the glory of the same monarch.

This square, or rather circle, is magnificent; the houses are regular, adorned with Corinthian pillars and much ornament; in the center is an equestrian statue of Louis XIV. on which the words "Victori perpetuo," are modestly engraved.

The Place of Louis XV. was erected in the year 1763; the statue is by Bouchardon, a name in great repute in France; if his fame depends on this work, the French must

be blind or infinitely good-natured, for it is most miserably executed ; the king is dressed in a Roman garb, on horseback, and the pedestal is supported by the four cardinal virtues ; which gave rise to the following pasquinade.

Bouchardon est un animal,  
Et son Ouvrage fait pitie ;  
Il met le vice à cheval,  
Et les quatre vertus à pie.

The statue fronts the gardens of the Tuilleries ; on one side is the river Seine, on the other a very magnificent façade, in imitation of the front of the Louvre ; it is ornamented with colonades, pillars of the Corinthian order, statues, trophies, &c. but it is at present a mere wall, there being no building behind this superb front.

I believe nothing remains to be mentioned but the three Theaters ; the most magnificent of which is the Opera in the palace of the Tuilleries ; the stage is more spacious than ours ; the scenes are admirably painted, and are let down from above, not shifted in our manner.

manner. The orchestra consists of fifty musicians, and I have seen in the grand chorusses one hundred and fifty persons on the stage. They generally act what they call *Fragments*, which are a strange medley of dancing and singing with detached parts from different stories; I confess they infinitely exceed us both in dancing and singing, as well as in the dress of the actors, and scenery of the house. Mademoiselle Allar is the best dancer.

Mr. Le Gros and Madam Rosalè are the first singers.

Madam Arnould has the greatest merit as an actress; tho' Duplon is great in tragedy, especially in Medea.

This house like the other theatres, is narrow long and badly illuminated, by which means you cannot distinguish the company in the back boxes.

The French Comedy is the least esteemed of the three, which shews the vicious taste of the people; since nothing is acted there but  
French



French plays, and those of the best authors; neither are the actors deficient, considering the encouragement they meet with.

Privelle is admirable in low life, he may be justly called the French Shuter. Old Bonnval is a good comedian. Delanville is held in the greatest repute as an actor; but he has a monotony in his voice that is extremely unpleasing.

The Italian Comedy is much frequented; no regular plays are acted there, but little musical entertainments, like the Padlock, or Maid of the Mill.

When this company was first licensed, they were to act in *Italian* only, that they might not interfere with the French Comedy. But by degrees they have introduced these *petits pieces*, with speaking Harlequins, who now and then speak French, and often Italian, by way of keeping withing the line of their original institution. Nothing can be more absurd than introducing a dialogue on the stage in two different languages; one  
speaks

speaks in French, the other answers in Italian. The Harlequin, tho' fifty years of age and corpulent, is very active, and said to be the best in the world.

La Ruelle and his wife are both excellent, the man as an actor, the wife both as an actress and singer.

Madam Trial's beauty and voice are beyond any thing I have ever seen or heard; add to this, that she acts with much propriety and great spirit.

The Pit, or Parterre as it is called, is an inclined plain without a bench, which is always full of poor well-dressed people; I say *poor*, because nothing but poverty could induce a man to stand for a whole evening wedged in such a place.

You are never interrupted with riots and disturbances as in England; for centinels with their bayonets fixed, stand in different parts of the theatre, who on the least tumult drag out the delinquent, be he whom he may, and carry him before a magistrate.

I had

I had almost forgot to mention the King's Cabinet of Natural Curiosities in the Rue St. Victoire, which on account of the greatness, as well as rareness of the collection, is well worthy notice. It consists of various rooms full of minerals, fossils, and petrefactions; of all kinds of wood in small polished pieces; of precious stones birds fishes beasts and insects arranged with the utmost regularity. Among many curious things which I do not recollect having seen before, were the bark of the American fern tree, which is almost black and looks like small shells stuck close together; the wolf's eye, a stone as black as jet, and resembling in shape the eye of a wolf. The amiantes, a stone with which thread is made, and some sea cabbage petrified white.

An uproar in the street has called me to my window, which is of too ludicrous a nature to be omitted. A taylor and the porter of the opposite house were the disputants. The taylor was lingua melior, but blows succeeded words, and victory was declaring for the porter, when the taylor fell, but rose like another

ther Antæus from the earth with double vigour, having armed his right hand with a stone, which in an instant dislodged two of the porter's teeth and concluded the combat ; as I must my letter, assuring you that I am, my worthy friend

Ever your's.

DEAR



Paris, Sept. 15.

D E A R S I R,

SUPPOSING you to be tolerably well acquainted with Paris, I must now take you to the places in the neighbourhood; but you must first enter into a contract with the man you hire your carriage of, to keep it for a month; that contract you must take with you; the expence of it is six livres, \* a mere form, which does not bind you to keep the coach for a month, but it is done to avoid the imposition you otherwise will be subject to, of paying six livres every time you go out of Paris in your carriage. Having obtained your contract and hired your coach, I would advise you of a Sunday evening to drive to St. Cloud, which is two short leagues from Paris; I prefer Sunday, the gardens being open on that day to all ranks of people; and the peasants of the neighbourhood, and the Burgeois

\* In other words, pay six livres to the King's coach office, for a permit to go out of Paris in your own carriage, which will stand good for a twelvemonth, but you must always have it with you.

geois of Paris, who dance in all parts of the gardens, tend greatly to enliven the scene.

In your way to St. Cloud, you go through the village of Passy, delightfully situated on the edge of a hill washed by the Seine, almost opposite to the Champ de Mars; from this little town you have a good view of Paris.

At a small distance is a hunting-box of the king's, called La Mevette, situated at the entrance of the Bois de Boulogne; you will not ill spend half an hour in walking round the gardens; the avenues are very pleasing, one is terminated by the Chateau of Madrid, built by Francis I. and is the model of the palace in which he was confined in Spain; and was so called to satisfy the conscience of the King, who upon oath promised Charles V. that he would return to Madrid if he did not ratify the treaty; but instead of rendering himself again to confinement in Spain, by a jesuitical evasion unworthy so great a monarch, he built and resided at this palace of Madrid.

In your road from La Mevette, you must pass through the Bois de Boulogne, a royal fo-

S

rest,

rest, full of game, and divided with avenues for the convenience of pursuing it. About a mile beyond this wood is the village of St. Cloud, situated upon the river Seine, six miles West of Paris. In the church is preserved the heart of Henry III. who was basely murdered by Jacques Clement, a friar of the Dominican order in the year 1589.

Henry III. succeeded his brother Charles IX. who was brother to Francis II. in Henry ended the line of Valois, after a reign of fifteen years in civil war with the Hugonots, under the King of Navarre, and with the league under the Duke of Guise and his brother the Duke of Mayenne.

By virtue of the Salique law, the Crown descended to Henry IV. King of Navarre, the elder branch of the family of Bourbon, descended from Robert Count of Clermont, second son of Louis IX. who, from the piety of his life and innocence of his manners, was called St. Louis. He died in 1270, and left two sons with issue, Philip the Hardy, of the house of Valois, and Robert Count of Clermont,

mont, of the house of Bourbon. The posterity of Philip reigned three hundred and nineteen years. After the reign of thirteen Kings, the Crown devolved by inheritance to Louis XII. who was succeeded by his son Francis I. and from him the Crown devolved to his son Henry II. the father of Francis II. Charles IX. and Henry III.

The Palace of St. Cloud belongs to the Duke of Orleans, is situated on the declivity of a mountain washed by the Seine, on the right are the gardens, on the left the town. The view from the house is delightful; the Seine meandering through the vale, which you catch in many different points of view; you look over the Bois de Boulogne, which is a beautiful wood, and the city of Paris terminates the prospect. On Sundays and festivals the house is open to all the world; the rooms consequently are dirty, and the little furniture you see far from elegant. The gallery is a noble apartment, and the statues and paintings in it are well preserved. The paintings are chiefly by Mignard.



The gardens are laid out with much art ; the river Seine forms a fine canal at the extremity of the gardens, on the edge of which is a terrace planted with rows of trees. The whole is ornamented with statues, groves, vistas and cascades. There is one jet d'eau, which throws up the water eighty feet. This is in a little bottom surrounded with lofty trees ; and the water playing above the tops of them has a very pretty effect.

In these gardens are temporary stalls for the sale of ribbands, toys, cakes, fruit, &c. with moveable pamphlet shops, where (this being a privileged place) you may buy books, which are either from their immorality or irreligion prohibited elsewhere.

The grand entrance to the Palace, from the situation of the hill, is obliged to be oblique, which takes off from the magnificence. This is indeed a defect which could not easily be obviated ; but I have never seen a place in France without some glaring absurdity. Here you see a palace which speaks the magnificence of a prince, and a little basin of water in  
the

the grand court, not large enough for a duck to swim in.

Your next trip may be to St. Denis, which is six short miles from Paris, on a level pavement with a mall on each side shaded with a double row of trees; the road is so straight that you can see from one end of the avenue to the other; St. Denis church terminates the view one way, the Fauxbourgs of Paris the other.

The church and the Benedictine convent are the only things worthy your attention. The church was begun by King Pepin, and has been much altered and enlarged by successive monarchs, which give a patch-work appearance to the outside. The gates are of brass embellished with figures and much admired for their antiquity. The windows are painted, which give a gloomy solemnity to this mansion of kings. The nave is a much admired piece of Gothic architecture. I cannot say that I saw any thing either curious or magnificent in the tombs. Some had nothing but antiquity to recommend them, others

were remarkable only for the greatness of the names they were intended to perpetuate; among which was the monument of Marshal Turenne with Charity pouring money from an urn.

The Convent of the Benedictines is a modern edifice of free-stone, and is one of the grandest I have seen. The gardens are extensive, with shady walks and pleasing prospects.

The treasures of the Abbey, if the jewels are not fictitious, must be immense, exclusive of saints bones, apostles fingers, pieces of the real cross, and such like trumpery, which superstition would purchase at a very high rate.

There are some antiques which merit the greatest attention; especially the bust which is of Tiberius on an onyx, larger than a crown piece. The laurel wreath is of the finest auburne, the other parts of the stone as white as snow.

A piece

A piece of rock chrystal in an oval shape, seven inches by four, on which is engraved our Saviour upon the cross with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary weeping on their knees, this is set in gold and adorned with jewels. But the greatest curiosity is an oriental agate made into a cup, which contains above a pint; it has two handles which are parts of the same stone. The Bacchanals are represented on the outside in basso relievo, executed with a degree of boldness to be equalled only by the ancients; many parts of the figures stand out free from the side of the vase. It is supposed to be two thousand years old, and to have belonged to Ptolomy Philadelphus.

You must now proceed with me to Versailles four leagues distant from Paris, built by Louis XIV, with more expence than judgment on an artificial eminence in a swampy valley. You arrive at it by a grand avenue of four rows of trees, the middle walk of which is fifty yards wide. At the end of this avenue, on the right and left are the stables in form of a crescent, most magnificently built



built, fronting the palace at the distance of a quarter of a mile ; there are stables for five hundred horses, but the inside is dark and gloomy, and the stalls are divided only by a bail, which is hung too low to be useful, and gives a mean appearance to the whole. The horses as well for the field as for draught, are chiefly English.

From hence you come to the Parade, well lined with the Dutch and Swiss guards ; you then enter the first court, and by an easy ascent proceed to a smaller, thro' which you pass on to a third, which is paved with black and white marble, having a fountain and a marble basin in the center. On each side of these courts, are grand pavilions falling back like the garden front of New College in Oxford, but with a greater number of wings. The roof of the chapel appears above the other buildings which destroys the uniformity of the view ; and some part of the walls are built of brick, which is disgusting to the eye, and diminishes the grandeur of this amazing pile of building.

The

The front towards the gardens is wonderfully magnificent, adorned with trophies, busts, statues, and all the ornaments which sculpture could devise. Its whole extent is six hundred yards; in the center of the building, is a grand portico a hundred yards in length supported by marble pillars of exquisite workmanship.

You enter the apartments by a marble stair-case, ten yards wide, which is as dirty as an alehouse kitchen; and what is very extraordinary, on the landing place, are two or three little stalls, where snuff-boxes and toys are publicly sold; having escaped the civility and importunity of these peddling merchants, you pass thro' a suite of rooms, where are the soldiers and officers of the guard, into the grand gallery, called Le Brun's gallery; from his having painted on the ceiling, the most memorable actions of Louis XIV. from the Pyrenean treaty\*, to the peace of † Nimeguen.

It

\* The peace of the Pyrenees was concluded between France and Spain in 1659, during the protectorship of Richard Cromwell.

† The grand contracting powers at Nimeguen in 1677, were Louis XIV. Charles II. and King William, then Prince

It is seventy two yards in length, with seventeen windows fronting the gardens, the same number of looking-glasses on the other side correspond with the windows ; the interstices are filled with statues, some of which are real antiques ; of those, Diana and Germanicus are the most striking.

The Chapel would be as elegant as superb, were it not that the windows are plain glass, the outer edges excepted, which are most tawdrily bedecked with yellow flower de luces.

There is an infinite number of pictures by the best hands, but the apartments are in general so gloomy, that you see them with little satisfaction.

The family of Darius at Alexander's feast by Le Brun, is in the marble saloon, at the end of which is painted the Apotheosis of Hercules by Le Moine, in which piece are a hundred and forty figures.

St. Michael

Prince of Orange. Spain and Sweden had plenipotentiaries there, but were not principals in the treaty.

St. Michael and the Devil, by Raphael.

St. Sebastian, by Vandyke.

Hercules on the funeral pile, Hercules fighting the Hydra, and the Centaur and Dejanira, by Guido.

These were the pictures which most pleased me. In the Hall of Venus is an antique statue of Cincinnatus, which ought to be studied, the better to judge of the great inferiority of the moderns.

Some part of the furniture is amazingly rich; as golden candlesticks, a chandelier of rock chrystal, which can be penetrated only by a diamond; and a golden clock of curious mechanism; before it strikes the hour, two cocks clap their wings and crow, two folding doors fly open, and the statue of Louis XIV. comes forward, an angel descends and crowns him, the clock strikes, the angel retires in a flying attitude, the king withdraws, the doors close, and the show is over. All the figures are of solid gold, and the statue of the King is a model of his statue in the Place des Victoires, with the viro immortali on the pedestal,



ftal, and the conquered kingdoms chained beneath his feet.

The apartments are dirty, which cannot be wondered at, when you are told that all the world rove about the palace at pleasure ; I went from room to room as my choice directed me, into the king's bed-chamber, dressing-room, &c. in all of which were numbers of people, and many but indifferently clad. But these are the little privileges for which the people have bartered their liberties ; and I doubt not but an order to prohibit any one's entering the palace, as is the case at Buckingham House, would raise as great a tumult among them, as with us the annihilating the trial by jury, or any other great constitutional law.

Having staid in the palace as long as you please, you may walk into the gardens with as little molestation, where you will find as much to admire ; there is such a profusion of water, statues, water-works and marble, that the eye is sated with magnificence. Opposite to the center of the palace is a canal sixteen hundred yards long, on which are many pleasure-boats ;

boats; in another point of view you see the orangery, which covers at least one acre of ground, the trees large and full of fruit, planted in tubs, which when the severe weather comes on, are removed into vaults designed for that purpose.

As you stand above the orangery, you will be struck with a most beautiful amphitheatre, formed by trees rising one above the other; beyond which is a spacious piece of water. All the steps nay the basons and edges of the canals and reservoirs are entirely of marble. Statues in every part of astonishing beauty, but all the male statues are mutilated by the express order of the late Queen; they like our first parents were naked and not ashamed; but the Queen having tasted of the tree of knowledge, ordered the statues to be unmaned, and the defects to be concealed with fig-leaves.

The most beautiful statues are opposite to the front of the house beyond the first bason. Castor and Pollux: Milo of Crotona with one hand in the cleft of a tree, while a lion is fastening on his buttocks; but in this is a

T

pal-

palpable defect ; his legs are very properly set against the root of the tree, his knees straightened, his body leaning back, as endeavouring to extricate his hand, the arm of which by a strange oversight is in a bent position.

Perseus delivering Andromeda ; the dying Gladiator supporting himself with one hand on the ground, the other elbow leaning on his thigh, with drops of blood issuing from his side ; this is in my opinion the finest figure in the gardens.

An Apollo Belvidere, a dying Cleopatra, and the Rape of Proserpine enclosed with arcades of marble, which is called the colonnade.

The Baths of Apollo are most justly admired, where Louis XIV. is represented under the character of Apollo, attended by his six favourite mistresses ; on each side is a group, consisting of a man preventing a horse from drinking in the basin below ; the thirst of the horse is most naturally expressed, his knees bent, his head and neck extended, his  
nose

nose pushed forwards, as endeavouring to suck up the water which he cannot reach.

In one part of the gardens, is a thick labyrinth, in which are interspersed the fables of Æsop cast in lead, which are contrived to spout out water in a thousand different shapes.

The two Kellers, Marfi, Bernini, Girardon, Tuby, and Dominic Gendi, executed the chief of the figures for the water-works. The bason of Neptune is infinitely superior in magnificence to the other water-works; it is on the right-hand of the garden front.

There is a jet d'eau that rises seventy-eight feet, which spouts out of the mouth of Enceladus oppressed by the weight of a mountain.

At the extremity of the gardens on the right of the grand canal is the beautiful little palace of Trianon, built in the Italian taste, only one story high, but entirely of marble; the front extends a hundred and twenty yards, and the wings are joined by a colonnade formed of



twenty-two marble pillars, adorned with sculpture, and the entablature is embellished with statues. There are few things within the house which merit particular observation. They shew you a porphyry table, said to be the best in Europe; there is likewise a good map of France described on a table, by being inlaid with different coloured marbles: and another marble table, on which is a butterfly inlaid so naturally, and the colours so rich, that it requires a nice eye to avoid being deceived.

There are two excellent pictures; the one of the Count de Thoulouse, bastard of Louis XIV. in the character of a sleeping Cupid, by Mignard; the other is St. Louis kneeling, by Coypel.

If I had not just seen the gardens of Versailles, I should have admired the water-works and statues here; notwithstanding which I cannot help being struck with Laocoon and his sons, a noble group copied from the antique, by Tuby.

Within a stone's throw of this palace, the King is now building another, called Little Trianon,

Trianon, neither so elegant nor magnificent; but it seems to be the foible of the present monarch to waste his treasures on his mistresses and buildings; tho' he is too old for the one, and has no taste for the other.

It is a pleasant walk of three short miles from Trianon to Marli, in which you will probably see more game than you ever saw in England.

Just within the gardens is the house of the Swiss, where you may get a good dinner and tolerable wine; which if you please, they will serve up in any part of the gardens.

The house was built by Louis XIV. after the design of the celebrated Mansart; the situation is in the bosom of a vale, on each side are six pavilions of two rooms each, almost hid by the trees; these are destined for the reception of the princes of the blood and the great officers of state, during the king's residence here, which is generally for six weeks in the year. The octagon hall is the only

room in the house that looks princely; tho' the whole is built in an admirable taste.

There are some fine pictures by Vandermeulen, representing the sieges of Maestricht, Cambray, &c.

The other pictures have no great merit; but the history of Don Quixote in the Gobelins tapestry, exceeds most pictures as well in the justness of the figures as liveliness of the colours.

The face of the fat cook in the red night-cap laughing at Don Quixote for breaking the puppets, and the archness of Sancho's countenance when laughing at Mambrino's helmet, are inimitable; as is the tail of a peacock over the door of Madam Adelaide's apartment.

The gardens are enchanting; the scenes picturesque, the water-works magnificent, the statues in general excellent, but two or three which surpass description.

The

The Venus de Medicis with Cupid astride a dolphin, near the house of the Swifs at the end of the avenue.

Behind the second pavilion on the left of the house, is a group of two children and a goat, in Italian marble by Sarazins, worth coming from England to see. One boy is represented sitting on the goat and holding him by the horn, with a laughing countenance; while the other, all attention, is cramming a cluster of grapes into the mouth of the goat who seems pleased with the deliciousness of the fruit, but angry at the rough manner in which it is given.

Near this is the celebrated statue of Venus aux belles Fesses. She is looking over her shoulder at her buttocks, which are uncovered; such grace, such symmetry, and elegant proportion could only live in the sculptor's imagination, for neither woman nor goddess were ever half so admirably formed. The drapery is equally to be admired.

Both the palaces and gardens of Marli and Versailles are furnished with water by a vast machine



machine fixed on a branch of the Seine, about mid-way between Marli and St. Germain; just above Marli is a large reservoir, with an aqueduct between six and seven hundred yards in length built of free-stone and supported by arcades; from hence the water is conveyed in large iron pipes of about fourteen inches diameter to the reservoir at Versailles.

It will be worth the trouble to walk down to the river and trace the pipes to their source. The Chevalier de Ville was the inventor; the first expence must have been enormous; the repairs are said to amount to twenty-five thousand pounds annual; I verily believe that Mr. Brindley would for that sum contract to convey the water to those palaces, we are so infinitely superior in the mechanical arts. This machine raises six hundred cubical inches of water to the height of three hundred and sixty feet; as I am not an adept in drawing, and as it is almost impossible to make you comprehend it without a plate of it, your curiosity must remain ungratified

gratified till I have the pleasure of explaining it in person.

It is not above two miles from thence to the palace of St. Germain, which is situated on a mountain twelve miles distant from Paris. Had Louis XIV. expended half the treasure in erecting a palace there, which he did at Versailles, it must have been superior to any thing in Europe; there is a lofty mountain at St. Germain, washed by the river Seine, looking over a delightful country to Paris; Mount Calvary, St. Denis, and a vast reach of the river are comprehended in one view; a forest of six thousand acres adjoins to the palace, and a grand terrace of three thousand paces which overlooks the whole country. This is the situation of St. Germain, which Louis XIV. had not sense enough to admire; but preferred Versailles, which was so boggy that he was obliged to make a hill to build on, which has no prospect of two miles extent, and which has all the inconveniences of a low and damp situation; at the same time that the  
water

water is obliged to be brought from six miles distance.

Having seen the prospect, you have seen every thing at St. Germain; except a picture by Poussin, and St. Louis giving alms by Le Brun, which are in the chapel. In the sacristy, are two most admirable pieces, the one of the Virgin Mary feeding the infant Jesus; St. John lying on his hands and knees blowing with his mouth the fire of the chafing-dish, on which stands the pap-pan, this is by Michael Angelo; the other is by Carracci, of the Virgin holding a dead Christ in her arms, with her head bending over his face in a most moving and expressive attitude.

The palace is an old brick quadrangle, very narrow, flanked with four large towers and surrounded with a dry ditch; it was built by Francis I. and is now inhabited by different families, chiefly English; descended from those who by more than human weakness abandoned their fortunes and their country with their idiot king, who had neither policy to keep,

nor courage to defend that crown which by inheritance descended to him.

Chateauneuf, is a little place built by Louis XIV. at the distance of two or three hundred paces, as little worth seeing as the palace.

The last of the king's palaces, that I shall recommend to you to see, is Choisi ; a neat little hunting-box, about six miles from Paris, situated on the banks of the Seine. The gardens are agreeable, not magnificent ; the apartments convenient but neither rich nor elegant : There is one dining room in which no servants are admitted to attend, the table being so contrived, as to render their presence unnecessary ; when the first course is over, the king stamps his foot, the table disappears, and another immediately rises thro' the floor covered with dishes. There are four dumb waiters loaded with wines on each of which is a piece of paper and a pencil to write for what is wanted ; a signal is given, the dumb waiter descends, and again makes its appearance with the article required.

On



On the road we met the king's attendants, who told us, he was to shoot there that day; we waited till he came, which was about noon, in a coach with four of his nobles. He has a manly countenance, a penetrating eye, and fine features, rather corpulent, and so helpless, that matter of state, in being assisted to get out of his carriage and upon his horse, was in fact I believe a matter of necessity.

His dress was a green waistcoat with sleeves, a large gold laced hat, and his own hair tyed negligently together; he was attended by about two hundred horsemen and forty or fifty chasseurs on foot with guns in their hands, the Prince de Soubise, and the Count' de March, son of the Prince de Conti, were the only nobles permitted to shoot; they fired on horseback; in less than two minutes after the king had left the highway, I saw hares and partridges out of number.

The moment the king had fired, another gun was put into his hand, which was instantly discharged. I had the curiosity to observe

observe his first thirty shots, in which number, he missed only twice.

He is proud of being esteemed the best shot in the kingdom; a most royal accomplishment! Nature certainly intended him for a game-keeper, but as a satire on mankind, made him a king.

He constantly goes to mass at eleven o'clock, and as constantly hunts or shoots from that time till five in the evening; the remainder of the day is spent at table, and in gaming with his nobility, till his favourite sultana seduces him to her bed. This is the life of the sovereign of a great people, who has acquired the title of *Louis the well-beloved*.

I knew not whether most to pity or despise his noble attendants in the field, who were not permitted to partake of the diversion, tho' obliged I suppose to offer up incense to their master's darling folly. *Laudare parati si bene ructavit, si rectum minxit;*

Adieu !

Paris,  
15th September.

U

DEAR

Rouen, Sept. 20.

DEAR SIR,

I BELIEVE I told you in my last, that I threatened leaving my friends for two or three days, and intended an excursion to Rouen in Normandy, being sick of Paris and its pleasures ; but as I could not meet with any of my countrymen, who wanted half a chaise and an *agreeable companion*, I was determined to try the humours of a French stage-coach ; I took a place therefore in the Rouen stage, which inns in the Rue Pavée pres les grands Augustins ; to the price I could have no objection, it being only half a guinea ; though I was not quite so well satisfied as to the time, it being two days and half going ninety miles.

Our company consisted of two reformed Benedictins, an old officer of invalids, two curés, a fat old woman, a lively widow, with an Italian physician and his daughter ; you perhaps will wonder how so large a party could be accommodated ; in respect to myself, as I had taken the second place, I ousted  
a Bene-

a Benedictin, who had seated himself in a very snug corner, to shew him, that, though a stranger I knew the customs, and though an Englishman, had sense enough to chuse a good place for myself. Stage-coach law differs in France; for you chuse your place in the coach by seniority, for which you refer to the book-keeper, who tells you which name is first entered.

This thing which they call a coach is of a circular form, with rooms for ten persons if well packed together; both before and behind are two immense baskets covered with sail-cloth for the carriage of parcels; that the Tout ensemble appears like a coach between two tilted waggons. It is drawn with eight horses, attended by a coachman and a postilion both on foot; they travel at the rate of three miles an hour; the coachman as arbitrary as his monarch, and we the poor passengers were obliged to be as abject as his subjects. I got out at St. Germain with the Italian doctor, and as we were not afraid of the coach driving away from us, we lounged a foot for some miles, through the forest of St. Germain; in



the evening we arrived at Mante, which is only thirteen leagues from Paris, though we were in the coach at four in the morning ; the zeal of the Benedictins made my first day's journey rather unpleasant ; they were profelyte mad, and were extremely earnest in their endeavours to save me from damnation. They would make me dispute, however unwilling I appeared to enter the lists ; I told them it was not my profession, neither had it been my study ; that I was talking in a language of which I knew but little, and in a country where I did not wish to give offence ; they said it was only by way of conversation ; and after having battled over most of the sacraments they asked me if I believed in transubstantiation ; I answered that I could not believe that our Saviour had eaten his own body at the Last Supper, and that his disciples had made a meal on the master of the feast ; their answer was, that I wanted faith ; " Voila la Raïson" added one with all the arrogance of triumph ; my patience was exhausted with so much bigotry and insufferable ignorance ; " Gentlemen, my hat (which I happened to be twirling on my finger) speaks  
French

French extremely well." A stare of surprise was the consequence of the assertion, which immediately gave way to a contemptuous smile; "Gentlemen you don't believe me, you want faith; Voila la Raison!" It was conclusive; for they ceased all further impertinence, and were very civil during the remainder of the journey.

I slept at Mante, in a four-bedded room, with my two Benedictins and the old invalid Captain; the devotion of my fellow disputants was extremely troublesome, as they kept walking up and down the room for an hour, repeating pater-nosters and ave-marias as hastily as a child repeats the alphabet, and seemingly with as much attention.

The Farmer-general has an elegant house about two leagues from Mante, on the banks of the Seine, but the situation is too low to be comfortable in the winter or wholesome at any time.

Vernon is six leagues from Mante, where is a magnificent Chateau, built by Cardinal Amboise, Arch-bishop of Rouen; this palace is

annexed to the Arch-bishoprick, and in point of situation (being on a hill which commands the Seine and an extensive country) as well as in the grandeur of the building, is esteemed among the first seats in France. We slept last night at Vaudreuil remarkable only for a house belonging to Mr. Partail President of the Parliament of Paris; when compared to a great man's seat in England it has no superior merit, but it is otherwise here, where you can scarce see aught but Chateaus in ruins.

We rose this morning at two o'clock, that we might get into Rouen (at the distance only of eighteen miles) before the heat came on, which had been intolerable for the last two days; we got here to breakfast, and I am so thoroughly surfeited with a stage, that nothing shall tempt me to enter one again.

I have been walking the whole day and so much fatigued, that I know not whether I shall be able to give you a tolerable account of this, the third city in France. It is the capital of Normandy, situated on the banks of the Seine, twenty-nine leagues from Paris,  
and

and twelve from Dieppe. The inhabitants are very industrious and are computed at sixty thousand. The form of the town is almost a square, containing thirty-seven parishes and forty convents; the streets are infamously narrow, and the houses irregular and vilely built.

The Cathedral is a noble remnant of Gothic magnificence; the form of the spire resembles a card house; it is covered with lead and has a most striking effect.

Here is George Amboise's bell, which is ten feet in diameter and weighs thirty six thousand pounds. The grand altar is under two twisted pillars gilt, surrounded with clouds and angels; brazen gates ornamented with well executed statues enclose the upper part of the choir.

St. Maclon and St. Ouen are venerable Gothic churches; the first is noted for its beautiful gates which time has much impaired; the other for the strong and lively colours of the windows, but especially for the tower, which is deemed most beautiful.

The



The greatest curiosity in this city is the Bridge of Boats, two hundred and seventy yards long, paved with stones, which rises and falls with the tide. It was contrived by Nicholas Bougeois, an Augustin fryar; the boats are placed a broadside of each other, with an axle at each end that runs in a groove made in an immense pile, which is driven into the bed of the river; by these means the boats have only a perpendicular motion; and each boat having a separate pavement solves the difficulty, which staggers belief at the first mention.

I strolled into the Marché aux Veaux, to see the statue of Joan of Arc, who was there barbarously burnt to death by the English, for no other crime than endeavouring to save her country. I know not whether the credulity of the French or the cruelty of the English is most a matter of astonishment.

When I was speaking of the bridge, I forgot to mention a most delightful walk on the other side of it, a mile in extent on the banks of the Seine, shaded with lofty trees, with a view of the hills which encircle the place; and

and on your return you see the city of Rouen with masts of vessels peeping up as it were in the town ; for by taking out one of the boats of the bridge, which is done with little trouble, the ships sail through and moor close to the backs of the houses.

I shall leave this place to-morrow morning, and as I intend riding post hope to sup with my friends at Paris in the evening, though the distance is almost ninety miles.

Adieu !

DEAR

Calais, Sept. 27.

DEAR SIR,

THE day before I left Paris, I was fully employed in hiring a coach for which I gave six guineas to Mr. Paschall, in obtaining an order from the post-master general to be furnished on the road with six horses, in getting a passport from our ambassador to return without molestation, and in obtaining another passport signed by the King of France, and counter-signed by the Duke de -----, to permit a poor Englishman to return to his own country, after having spent all the money he had brought with him.

On Sunday the twenty-fourth, we bid adieu to Paris, passed thro' St Denis, which I have already mentioned to you, made a short stay at Escouen, which in point of situation, is a lovely place; it is built on a hill, which commands the whole country towards Chantilly, with the Seine running on one side the Oise on the other. The Constable  
Montmorenci,

Montmorenci, who was disgraced by Francis I. built a castle there, which now belongs to the Prince of Condé. There are three stories of the Doric, Ionic, and Attic orders well preserved. The castle is square with pavilions and turrets at each angle.

From thence we went to Chantilly, another palace belonging to the Prince of Condé. This family bears the title of Prince of Condé and Duke of Bourbon alternately.

The castle is triangular ; within a spacious court ; without, a large moat which surrounds it. The approach is over a draw-bridge, and it is defended by cannon.

The apartments are small, and the communications from one room to another are awkward. The billiard and musick rooms are fitted up in the richest manner. The floors are of marble, the ceilings painted and gilt. The gallery is ornamented with the battles of Louis XIII. and XIV. but is too narrow for its length.

There



There is in this room a marble table of inimitable workmanship, inlaid with different coloured marbles, and describing the siege of Barcelona as accurately as if done by the brush of a painter.

The Cabinet of Curiosities is superior to any private collection I have seen. The Cabinet of Natural Philosophy is particularly rich in minerals and fossils. Titian and Paul Veronese are the only names of note in his collection of pictures, which is unequal to a Prince whose domains are one hundred miles in circumference.

The gardens are full of orange trees, jet d'eau, and water-works. The park is diversified with water, bridges, wildernesses, statues, temples, and in short with every thing that money can purchase; notwithstanding which, I am so partial to Stow Gardens, that I cannot but give them the preference; at Chantilly nature is lost in art; at Stow, art has ever nature in her view.

The Menagerie is very extensive but ill stocked; the walls are covered with green  
attice

lattice work, between which all kinds of flowers are occasionally interwoven so as entirely to conceal the wall. This was a refinement in elegant expence, which I had not the least idea of.

The Stables are more magnificent than a palace; they form a quadrangle built of the finest stone, one side is a stable containing two hundred and forty English horses; in the center of it, there are the statues of two sea horses in marble vomiting water into a large cistern. The Prince often drives thro' the stables in his carriage when he comes to view his stud.

The Manage is equally grand, it forms a rotund of prodigious extent, but is left open to the sky.

There was an infinite variety of carriages for state, convenience, and the chace; among the latter, I must mention one of a construction most whimsically odd. It was made like a chair with a head to it; but on each shaft was a seat resembling the back of a horse, terminating with a horse's head, five

persons can sit astride on each shaft, one behind the other. In this manner I saw the Prince of Condé, the Dukes of Orleans and Chartres with others of the nobility go to the chace.

From Chantilly we went to Clermont where we slept. This is a small town in the Isle of France, situated on a hill, at the foot of which runs the little river de Breche. The Duke of Fitz-James has a chateau there built in the Gothic style but much out of repair; the situation is low and damp; the environs are gloomy, consisting of straight walks thro' thick groves with plenty of water not advantageously disposed.

We left Clermont at six in the morning, breakfasted at Breteuil, a little dirty insignificant town; dined at Amiens which is the capital of Picardy, about midway between Paris and Calais, situated on the river Somme, three branches of which run thro' the town.

The streets are regular, the houses tolerably built, and the people who are computed to

be thirty-five thousand, wore a face of industry not often seen in an inland town in France.

There are some noble walks adjoining to the city ; and the grand mall is deemed inferior only to the mall at Tours.

The cathedral of Notre Dame was built by the English, and remains a noble monument of British magnificence. The nave of the church is a finished piece of architecture, two hundred and thirteen feet long ; the choir is a hundred and fifty-three feet in length, and equally admired for its proportion. The present bishop and one of the canons of the church, have expended above four thousand pounds sterling, in ornamenting the grand altar. It represents heaven opened, with the clouds and angels partly in painting and partly in basso relievo.

On one side of the altar is St. John, on the other the Virgin Mary, in stone, as large as the life. On the altar are seven candlesticks of massive silver. Around the altar-piece



piece are the statues of six angels, holding cornucopias in their hands which serve for candlesticks. In the choir are four cedar pillars thirty feet high, carved in the most curious manner. The filligree is so slight, as to appear unable to support its own weight; and what is still more extraordinary, they are four single trees without a nail or a drop of glue.

The church is rich in curiosities and precious relicks; among the former was the head of St. John in pure gold, which was regarded as nothing in comparison with a relick which was deemed invaluable, I mean the identical finger of the unbelieving Thomas which pierc'd our Saviour's side; I confess I was weak enough to prefer the mammon of unrighteousness to the finger of the apostle; especially as the golden head was ornamented with an infinite number of jewels; the offerings of the weak and the wicked, who hoped to bribe heaven with trash they could no longer enjoy.

Having satisfied our curiosity and appetites, we proceeded on our journey through Pequigny, a small town built on a hill and watered  
by

by the Somme ; from the church you have an extensive view of the country, and at about five miles distance you see a Benedictine convent called Du-Garde, built on the edge of a river, which has a very magnificent appearance.

In the evening we arrived at Abbeville, the capital of Ponthieu, in the province of Picardy, situated only fourteen miles from the English channel ; the town is low, and the country round it marshy ; it is divided by the river Somme ; is called the *maiden* town, because it never has been taken, which is to me a matter of wonder, as it is in the neighbourhood of Cressly, and must have followed the fate of that battle, had Edward thought it an object worthy of his attention.

We breakfasted this morning at Montreuil, which is most agreeably situated on a circular hill, surrounded with a wall and fossé ; the vale below is watered by the river Canche. This town was taken by the Duke of Marlborough.

We next passed Samers, a little dirty town,

with nothing in it to be observed, but a Benedictine convent reputed rich.

We dined at Boulogne, the capital of the Boulonnois, and see of a bishop, whose revenue is near a thousand pounds a year; it is divided into the upper and lower town.

The Upper Town is pleasantly situated on an eminence, commands the whole country and has a distinct view of the English coast.

The Lower Town is built on the side of a hill, and runs down to the river Liane, at the mouth of which is a dangerous harbour.

This town is exempted from the gabelle on salt, a most oppressive tax; from whence arose this indulgence I could not learn.

About midway between Boulogne and Calais, we passed Wissant, called by Cæsar, Icius Portus, from whence he embarked for Britain.

At length we arrived at Calais, and bless ourselves that the journey is over. From Chantilly the road has been in every respect dif-

disagreeable, up hill and down, in many places dirty, in others ill-paved---the whole country open---scarce a hedge to be seen, no carriages on the road, no appearance of traffick, no gentlemen's seats; few towns, and but now and then a straggling village swarming with beggars; a dreary prospect indeed, where every object betrayed the strongest symptoms of poverty and distress.

Calais is only eight leagues from Dover, and thirty-two posts from Paris, situated in the county of Artois and generality of Amiens. I confess my surprize to see a place which has been so often mentioned in history, which withstood the army of Edward III. for near twelve months, and which made so considerable a figure in the treaty of Chateau Cambresis in 1559, so contemptible as it at present appears. Its situation at that period was deemed so strong, and its fortifications so impregnable, that for the space of two hundred and ten years, no monarch of France had been daring enough to attack it, from the time of Edward III. till the enterprising valour



hour of the Duke of Guise in 1558 compelled Lord Wentworth to surrender.

The town is small, the streets are narrow, and the fortifications trifling. There is indeed a fossé which can be filled either with salt or fresh water, and a citadel advantageously situated to annoy the enemy from every quarter; I was not allowed to enter it, but it seemed incapable of making any material defence.

The barracks built by Louis XIV. can accommodate twelve hundred men; the outside of the windows are surrounded with tenter-hooks, many of which were loaded with sheeps hinges and other offal for the use of the soldiery. I knew not which most to admire, their food or their larders.

The church dedicated to the Invocation of the Virgin, is built in form of a cross, and ornamented with eleven chapels. The grand altar is decorated with two basso-relievos in alabaster; the one represents the Manna showered from Heaven; the other, the Lord's Supper. Both of them are well executed.

I have

I have just seen the Captain of the Packet, who comforts me by saying the wind is in our teeth, and that we cannot get out of the harbour till it changes. If we are weather-bound here to-morrow, I will dedicate it to the request you made me in your last, by giving you some account of the manners and customs of the people; but should the wind prove fair, we shall early in the morning take leave of this nation of levity and good humour, which I shall most gladly exchange for the more solid understanding and rational manners of my own country.

Adieu!

Caleis,

Tuesday evening, 27th Sept.

DEAR

Calais, 28th Sept. 1769.

D E A R S I R,

I HAVE hitherto troubled you with descriptions of towns and palaces, which every sixpenny pamphlet on the subject would probably have given you a juster idea of; as you paid me the compliment to think otherwise I submitted; but you request at present a much more arduous task; long usage and much observation are requisite to speak with tolerable precision on the manners and customs of a people. Though I have been twice in France, yet my residence here has been so short that I could scarce learn the language, you therefore must expect no observations from me, but such as were so striking that even inattention could not fail to remark.--- I believe the climate of France to be the most healthy, the soil the most fruitful, and the face of the country the most pleasing in the universe; and I hope for the honour of human nature, that its inhabitants are the vainest and most illiterate. Can you believe that this all-sufficient people, who look on the rest  
of

of Europe with contempt, are in most of the mechanic arts at least a century behind the *savage* English, as they affect to term us. In their tapestry, looking-glasses, and coach-varnish, they are confessedly our superiors; but their carriages are more clumsy than our dung-carts; their inns inferior to an English alehouse; their floors, both above and below, of brick or a kind of plaister, without carpets; their joists unceiled, the windows without pullies, drawn up to a certain height, where they catch a hook which prevents their falling; the tables consist of three or four planks nailed together, and the houses are totally destitute of every kind of elegance, I had almost said convenience; I do not mean to include the houses of the opulent great, as money will purchase the elegant superfluities of every country. But in this situation you will find the inns and the houses of the gentry and tradesmen. Their gardens are most uniformly dull, but in these they condescend to follow those standards of taste the Dutch. Sandy walks at parallel lines between yew hedges, parterres tortured into form and surrounded with the lively box, and trees planted at equal  
dis-



distances, will give you a just idea of a French garden; I ought to have added, that they blend the *utile dulci*; for I remember the parterres in the gardens of the bishop and intendant of Anjou were prettily diversified with garlick, onions, and other useful vegetables. They are such slaves to fashion, that they have eight different seasons in the year for dress; which they carry to such excess of folly, that they descend even to the minutiae of a ruffle; and a man's character would be ruined, were not the lace of his ruffles adapted to the season of the year.

Their conversation consists in compliments and observations on the weather; no flattery is too gross for them either to offer or receive; they will talk for ever, but never pay the least attention to what you say. The barber and the looking-glass employ their whole time within doors, and walking in a sandy mall is all their entertainment without; one of these things, the moment it enters the room, pays its respects to the glass, and views the pretty fellow with wonderful satisfaction. His hat, if a thing of six inches in circumference

circumference deserves the name, is always carried in his hand, but in this the French are humble imitators of their tutelar Saint Denis, who has refined upon politeness by carrying instead of a hat his head in his hand, at least he is thus pourtrayed in all the statues I have seen of him. ---\*

Nothing is more common than to see gentlemen ornamented with ear-rings, while their shirts are facking, and their heads a dunghill.

In some instances they are as neat, as filthy in others. At table you have a clean napkin and clean plates, but your knife is never changed nor wiped. A common bourgeois will not drink out of the same cup with you,

Y though

\* Voltaire, in a note in his Pucelle D'Orleans says—  
 “ L'Abbé Hildouin fut le premier qui écrivit, que cet Evêque ayant été décapité porta sa tête entre ses bras de Paris, jusqu' à l'Abbaye qui porte son nom : on érigea ensuite des croix dans tous les endroits où ce saint s'étoit arrêté en chemin.—Le Cardinal Polignac content cette histoire à une marquise, et ajoutant que Denis n'avait eu de peine à porter sa tête que jusqu' à la première station ; cette dame lui répondit ; *Je le crois bien, il n'y a dans de telles affaires qui le premier pas qui coûte.* ”

though a nobleman will spit over your room with the greatest unconcern.

I have seen a lady through excess of delicacy hide her mouth while she used a tooth-pick, and to preserve the character entire, she has the next moment scratched her head with the sharp pointed knife she was eating with.

Ladies of fashion alone have the privilege of making themselves horrible, which they most effectually do, by applying a large patch of rouge or vermilion under each eye; the shape and colour at the discretion of the wearer. The only pretty women I have seen are among the trading people, who are not allowed to disfigure themselves, neither are they obliged to be in the sun, which makes the peasants an antidote to the loosest libertine; I ought to tell you, that all ranks of women, to convince you that they have neither feeling nor common sense, never wear a hat, it may be extraordinary, but not less true, for a hat they never wear; they seem as regardless of their heels as their heads, for

for slippers without quarters are the general wear ; notwithstanding which, it is amazing how well they dance and how firm they walk. I do not include the peasants ; they, poor devils, have no stockings and wear large wooden shoes, lined sometimes with a piece of sheep-skin to prevent galling the instep, but that is a piece of luxury you seldom meet with.

In every branch of agriculture the farmers are incredibly deficient ; but can it be wondered at when you consider that there are no inducements for improvement. The nobility and clergy are exempted from the land-tax, a heavy assessment, which consequently must fall on the occupier. The gabel on salt is likewise extremely burthen some ; for every family is obliged to buy annually in the proportion of two bushels and a half to ten persons, which if not consumed within the year must not be sold. Add to this that the Seignior or Lord, (for all lands are held by vassalage), exacts *ad arbitrium* from his tenants. To what purpose then are improvements, when the King or the Lord will reap



all the fruit of the farmer's industry and labour? Hence arises that misery so conspicuous in every farm. I have often seen a half-starved cow and an ass ploughing in the same yoke; and I have heard it asserted as a fact, that a pig and an ass are sometimes ploughing together: but I can scarce believe that two such opinionated animals could be induced to work together with any degree of society. In some of the provinces, the little farmers who have no barns and can afford to build none, are obliged to thrash out the grain in the field where it grows, to their great loss in the best of weather, in a wet season, to their utter ruin. For want of money to purchase waggons, they are obliged to carry both their corn and their hay on the backs of their cattle; and it is with much ingenuity they will load a horse till you can see only his head and feet. These are the unavoidable consequences of poverty; some other instances seem the result of ignorance. For example, the cattle draw entirely with their horns; a board of two inches wide is fixed on their horns, and a cord is tied to each end which is fastened to the cart: this is their method

method of drawing; a more uncouth method could not have been followed in the Days of King Pepin.

They wash their linen in a river by dipping it into the running stream, then placing it on a block or stone, and beating it with a board like a battle-dore. Such proofs of ignorance would surpass belief, did not the notoriety of them exact your credit. Even in Paris I have seen men hold a saw between their legs, and rub a stick of wood against it till it was sawed afunder.

In the whole city of Paris there is not a flat stone to walk on, nor a post to guard you from the carriages, which are so numerous, and the streets so narrow, that the foot passengers are never out of danger.

The lamps hang in the center of the streets on cords which are fixed to the opposite houses: If the cord breaks, the lamp is destroyed, as well as the unfortunate person who is passing under at the time.

To light a lamp is the business of two men ; the one lowers it, while the other lights it, which forms a temporary barrier across the streets, a method awkward as inconvenient.

Two men likewise are required to shoe a poor little bidet ; one smith holds the horse's hoof, while the other drives the nail.

The police of France so much admired by travellers is in many instances wonderfully deficient : The whole kingdom swarms with beggars, an evidence of poverty, as well as defect in the laws. This observation was confirmed at every inn I came to, by crowds of wretches, whose appearance spake their misery. I have often passed from the inn-door to my chaise through a file of twenty or thirty of them ; even the churches are infested with them, and I have seen many a devotee in the midst of her devotions interrupted by their importunity.

Duelling it is said is punished with death ; true : --- If two persons, (I will not say gentlemen, for every rascal wears a sword and  
knows

knows the use of it,) fight in a house, or meet by appointment, the survivor must be hanged; for the King solemnly swears at his coronation not to pardon such offenders. But every duel is construed a rencontre; that is, the parties meet as by accident, and then the murderer escapes unpunished, the dead being always in the wrong, the survivor pleading that he killed his adversary in his own defence. The regiment of Carabineers, when quartered at Angers, in the space of four years, gave upwards of an hundred instances of what I have advanced; the civil magistrates were silent; their officers rather countenanced the practice. Add to this, a custom truly diabolical, if a gentleman strikes another, his blood alone is not sufficient atonement; nothing but death can expiate the offence.

From an ill-timed parsimony in the laws, murder frequently escapes justice; for the relations of the deceased must be at the expence of apprehending and prosecuting the criminal. If a man of rank commits murder his greatness will be his safeguard, and he may almost depend on pardon.

If



If you are robbed on the highway, you lose both your money and your life; but this seldom happens, as there is in every large town a *maréchaussée* established, which is a horse-patrol of six or eight persons, whose sole employ it is to patrol the roads and protect the traveller. The roads are excellent, and untaxed with turnpikes; but these the poor peasants are obliged to make and to repair by the sweat of their brow, without even the prospect of advantage accruing to them from their labour.

Their religion seems calculated for the vulgar, and is rather to amuse than to amend. It consists of trumpery-faints and tinsel-ornaments; in prayers estimated by their number, more than for the devotion with which they are offered. The Virgin Mary is adored with all the superstition of idolatry, while the Saviour of mankind is almost unnoticed, unless by being gibbeted in every public road, a profanation equally impious and absurd. The priests hurry over the service which is in Latin lest it should be understood by the congregation in the most slovenly manner;

manner; they are illiterate to a degree of contempt; the clergy are in general unacquainted with the Greek characters, and most who profess a knowledge of the Latin tongue, are strangers to the elegance of the language. Indeed I think illiterature seems to be the national misfortune; the infinite number of notaries in Paris will justify my observation.

When I was at Angers, there were in that city four thousand religious of both sexes, who had dedicated their lives to idleness under the different shapes of Nuns, Mendicants, and Benedictines, and who were prohibited what the Deity has himself enjoined: "Increase and multiply." What immense numbers then must there be in the whole kingdom, who are restrained population, in which consist the the great riches as well as power of a state. If the passions cannot be subdued, what scenes of iniquity must follow! The nuns drink a liquor called volet, which freezes the blood, and quells those desires which might otherwise intrude on female minds; but I fear they are often obliged

ged to call in the ecclesiastical power to their aid, and find a pampered friar to be more efficacious than rivers of volet.

All ranks of people celebrate Sunday in merriment and dissipation, and it is the genteel day for routs and the playhouse. Their festivals are out of number, which are commemorated by idleness and pageantry, making no difference between the Feast of God's heart, or the commemoration of Parson Berenger; \* and celebrating with equal magnificence the Feast of the Virgin Mary and the whore of Orleans.

The good qualities of the French are confined in very narrow compass; they are lively, temperate, sober, and good-humoured; but in general are strangers to the manly virtues:

\* On the 18th of June, an annual festival is kept at Angers, to commemorate the abjuration of Berenger, Archdeacon of Angers, who had been guilty of writing against the real presence. — It draws the whole province together. — The procession, when I was there, consisted of upwards of four thousand people who walked at noon-day with torches in their hands, preceded by many groups of waxen images, representing various parts of the Old and New Testament, dressed a-la-mode in laced coats, negligees, &c.

virtues: though I know two or three individuals, who are not only an honour to their country but an ornament to human nature.

Adieu !

Hotel d'Angleterre,  
Calais,  
28th Sept. 1769.

APPENDIX.





... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

APPENDIX



## A P P E N D I X.

---

THE COINS OF HOLLAND.

**T**HE Doit is a copper coin, the size of an English farthing, but of only half the value.

Eight Doits make a Stiver, which is of a base metal, larger than a silver penny, and rather more in value. --- On one side is the bundle of arrows, emblematical of the union of the Seven Provinces; on the reverse, is the name of each respective province in which it was coined.

Two Stivers make a Dubliky, which is of base metal, and of the size of an English sixpence.

The Sestehalf goes for five Stivers and a half, is as thin as a sixpence, but in size equal to a shilling. --- When the bundle of

**Z**

arrows

arrows in form of a star is stamped on a Sestehalf, it increases its value to six stivers. On one side is a champion on horseback; on the reverse, the arms of the province.

The Goode Skelling is likewise worth six Stivers, and differs from the Sestehalf only in the size, being much broader.

The Gilder or Florin is twenty Stivers, of tolerable silver, and almost as large as our half-crown. On one side is the figure of a man à l'antique, leaning upon the bible with his left hand, holding a spear in his right. \* On the exergue are these words, "Hâc ni-  
"timur, hanc tuemur." Had the words been reversed, the motto would have applied; at present they stand as a proof of Dutch stupidity.

The Ducat is a gold coin, worth five gilders and five Stivers, about the size of a half-guinea. It is said to be the purest gold of any

\* I am inclined to think that this device was taken from John Boccold, or Beukels, a journeyman taylor of Leyden, who was an Anabaptist prophet, and in the year 1534 became king of Munster. This John of Leyden carried a bible in one hand, and a spear in the other; and coined money stamped with his own image.

any European coin. On one side a warrior armed cap-à-pié with a sword in one hand, the bundle of arrows in the other. On the exergue, *Concordiâ res parvæ crescunt*; on the reverse, *Mo. ord. Provin. Fœder. Belg. ad leg. imp.*

A Ryder is a gold coin, rather thicker than the ducat; value seven florins. On one side is an equestrian figure of a warrior completely armed, in the act of attacking sword in hand; on the reverse a lion rampant, with a sword in one paw, the bundle of arrows in the other: it is marked 7---G.<sup>1</sup>.

The Gilder, the Ducat, and the Ryder, are most beautiful coins.

### TABLE OF DUTCH COIN.

DUTCH.	ENGLISH.
A Doit - -	Half a Farthing
A Stiver - -	One Penny
A Dubliky -	Two-pence
A Sestehalf -	Five-pence halfpenny
A Goode Skelling	Six-pence
A Gilder or Florin	Twenty pence
A Ducat -	9 Shill, and 6 pence
A Ryder -	12 shill and 9 pence
Z 2	This



This calculation is not perfectly exact; for a shilling goes only for eleven Stivers; half-a-crown for twenty-eight; and a guinea for eleven Gilders eleven Stivers; but you will seldom be allowed more than eleven Gilders eight Stivers for a Guinea.

A Stiver's intrinsic value is something more than an English penny, otherwise we should lose one shilling and nine pence in the exchange, as there are in eleven Gilders eleven Stivers only two hundred and thirty-one Stivers, which valued as pence, amount to no more than nineteen shillings and three pence.

Guineas are current in all parts of Holland, and if you can carry over new guineas, it will be to your advantage, as at Helveot and at Amsterdam you will get the full change of eleven Gilders eleven Stivers.

The Dutch compute by Gilders, Stivers, and Doits, as we do by pounds, shillings, and pence; when extraordinary exactness is not requisite, ten gilders are computed as a pound Sterling. Sometimes they reckon by tons of gold: --- a ton is 100,000 gilders; or 10,000 pounds Sterling.

THE

## THE FLEMISH COIN.

THE smallest piece of currency is a Liard, of the size and value of an English farthing.

The Demi-sous answers to our halfpenny both in size and value.

The Ten-Liard piece is a base silver coin of the size of a sixpence; on one side a cross, on the other the imperial arms, worth two pence halfpenny English.

A Placart is half a Schelling, or three Sous and a half, larger than a sixpence, bearing a cross on one side, the spread eagle on the other.

A Five-Sous piece is as large as our shilling; on one side a cross, on the other the imperial arms.

A Schelling is of the same size, but better metal, worth seven Sous; on one side the arms of the Empress, on the other a lion rampant holding a sword in one paw, sustaining a shield with the other.

There are Two-Schelling pieces, which differ from the Schelling only in size.

The Demi-Couronne is the size of our English half-crown, and is worth four Schellings and a Placart; on one side a cross, on the other a spread eagle, with the imperial arms in the middle.

The Couronne is the size and value of an English crown.

Four Couronnes nine Sous, or thirty-seven Schellings two Sous, are change for an English guinea.

The Flemands compute by Florins, which are not real coin as in Holland, but imaginary like our pound Sterling. For instance, thirteen Florins one Sous make a guinea.

The ideal Florin answers to twenty Sous; by which means you get nine Sous in the change of every guinea.

For a Dutch Ducat you have in change seventeen Schellings one Sous, which is equal to ten shillings in English.

Their silver money is so basely adulterated, that it will not pass out of the territories of the Empress.

There is a gold coin called an Imperial; but I never met with one.

## THE COIN OF FRANCE.

Three Deniers make one Liard ; four of which, one Sol or halfpenny English ; twenty Sols one Livre, which like our pound Sterling is imaginary ; but by that the French always compute.

Twenty-four Livres make one Louis d'or.

A Denier is an ancient copper coin, not so large as Charles the II'd's farthing.

A Two-Liard piece is in size between a farthing and a halfpenny ; in value equal only to a farthing.

A Sol is somewhat larger.

A Six-Liard piece is of thin copper, the size of an English sixpence, slightly washed with silver, and is marked thus L L.

The Two-Sols piece differs only from the Six-Liard piece in thickness, and by being stamped with a single L : --- The thickness is the safer distinction, as the impression of the letters is often worn out.

The Six-Sols piece is of the size and value of our silver threepence.

The



The Douze-Sols piece answers to our fixpence.

The Vingt-quatre Sol is like an English shilling, both in size and value.

The Half-crown is three Livres.

The Crown-piece six Livres; four of which make a Louis-d'or, which is about the size and value of a guinea.

The coin of the reigning King is the only current coin in France; which in the gold and silver is most minutely observed; but their copper is so adulterated, that the stamp is little regarded.

You must always compute either by Sols or Livres; --- generally by Sols till you arrive at five Livres: --- you therefore say a thing cost quatre-vingt cent sols.

A Franc and a Livre are synonymous for the same specific sum, yet are distinguished in their application. In small numbers you use the word Franc, as six Francs; but when you come to computations above a hundred, you adopt the word Livre.

*The Manner and Expence of Travelling from  
LONDON to HELVEOT.*

	£.	s.	d.
In a chaise and four, with post-horse for the servant - - -	6	10	0

*At HARWICH.*

The agent's permit - -	0	13	6
Porters for trunks, at 6d. each, -	0	0	6
To the officers of the customs, -	0	1	0
The boat to the vessel, - -	0	1	0
Bed in the cabin, - -	1	1	0
Cabin-boy, - - -	0	1	0
Porter at Helveot, - -	0	1	0

The fees and passage for one person are, - - - £. 1 19 0

The seventy-two mile stone is in the middle of the town of Harwich, yet by inn-keepers' computation you are obliged to pay for seventy-four miles.

There is a coach goes from the Spread Eagle in Gracechurch-street: Fare, 12 s.

*The*

*The Rout and Distance from Place to Place.*

## From LONDON to

White Hart	Rumford	12
------------	---------	----

Red Lion	- 12	Ingolstone	24
----------	------	------------	----

Blue Posts	- 14	Witham	38
------------	------	--------	----

Three Cups	- 14	Colchester	52
------------	------	------------	----

White Hart	- 10	Manningtree	62
------------	------	-------------	----

White Hart	- 12	Harwich	74
------------	------	---------	----

From Harwich to Helveot 36 leagues.

*The Manner and Expence of Travelling for  
three Gentlemen and one Servant from HEL-  
VEOT to UTRECHT.*

	<i>Gil. flor. doit.</i>
For ringing the bell at Helveot,	0 5 4
For a stage-waggon to the Brill	3 17 0
To the waggoner, -	0 5 4
For the ferry to Boar's island,	0 12 0
Post-waggon over the island,	0 16 0
Ferry to Maeslandfluice, - -	0 5 0
Roof of the treckschuyte to Delft	1 4 0
Ditto to Rotterdam, -	1 12 0
Ditto to Delft, -	1 12 0
Ditto to the Hague, -	0 18 0
Ditto to Leyden, -	1 10 0
Ditto to Harlem, -	3 0 0
Ditto to Amsterdam, -	2 1 0
To Utrecht without the roof	3 4 0

*Gil. 21 1 8*

We travelled one hundred and thirteen miles for about £. 1. 19s. 6d. English.

A Stiver for the boy who rides the horse for the boat is a handsome gratuity.

*The*



*The Rout and Distance from HELVEOT to  
UTRECHT.*

		Miles.
Sun	- to The Brill	7
Blackmoor's Head	5 Maeslandfluice	12
Stadt's Doele	- 8 Delft -	20
Swine's Hoof	- 10 Rotterdam	30
Le Parlement d' } Angleterre	15 The Hague	45
Golden Ball	- 12 Leyden	57
Golden Fleece	16 Harlem	73
The Star in the } Nefs	10 Amsterdam	83
Chateau d'An- } vers	30 Utrecht	113

*The*

*The Manner and Expence of Travelling from  
UTRECHT to LISLE.*

	<i>Gil. flo. doit.</i>
A coach and four from Utrecht to	
Breda - - -	54 0 0
Ditto to Bergen-op-zoom,	21 0 0
Ditto to Antwerp, -	22 0 0
A coach and pair to Brussels,	16 0 0
Ditto to Ghent, -	15 0 0
The barge to Bruges, -	4 0 0
Coach and pair to Courtray,	14 0 0
Ditto to Lisle, -	8 0 0
The permit at Menin to enter France	1 8 0
	<hr/>
	155 8 0

Or about £. 14, 4s. English.

	<i>Liv.</i>
Four places in the Diligence from	
Lisle to Paris at 55 liv. each,	220 0 0
To the coachmen 3 liv. each,	12 0 0
Baggage at 3 sous per pound,	35 0 0
	<hr/>
	267 0 0

Or £. 11, 9s. English.

N. B. Provisions and lodging are included  
in the fare.

*The Rout and Distance from UTRECHT to LISLE.*

	To Golcomb	18
Le Prince Cardinal,	24 Breda	42
	15 Rosandale,	57
La Cour d'Holland	6 Bergen-op-zoom	63
LeGrand Labou- reur,	{ 21 Antwerp,	84
La Gruë,	12 Mechlin,	96
L'hotel Imperial,	12 Bruffels,	108
	15 Alost,	123
St. Sebastian,	15 Ghent,	138
Le Fleur Blè,	24 Bruges,	162
Le Chatelet,	24 Courtray,	186
I.'Aigle étendu,	6 Menin,	192
L'hotel Royal,	9 Lisle	201

---

*From LISLE.*

To Douay,	21
15 Cambray,	36
24 Peronne,	60
66 Senlis,	126
30 Paris,	156
<i>The</i>	

*The Manner and Expence of Travelling from  
PARIS to CALAIS.*

	<i>Livres.</i>
To Mr. Paschal-Sellier près la mon- noye, for the hire of a coach to Calais, - - - - -	144
For six horses at 7 livres 10 sous per post for thirty two posts and a post- royal - - - - -	247
To two postilions 2 livres per post, - - -	64
	<hr/>
	455

Or about 20l. Sterling.

*The*

Fifteen sous per post is sufficient to give a postilion: None but the English give so much.

Remember when you hire a chaise to agree with the master, that he shall be at the expence of all repairs that may be necessary on the road; otherwise you will be accommodated with a crazy vehicle, that it may be repaired at your expence.— The proper method is to get an order from the owner on the person you are to deliver the carriage to, that he should reimburse you the expence of the repairs.

A post-royal is a shameful imposition to plunder travellers: For at going in and out of Paris, Versailles, Lyons, or any other place where the King keeps his court, the first post, though in fact but two leagues, demands a double price; and from the King's residing there, is called royal.



*The Rout and Distance from PARIS.*

	To St. Denis,	6
A la Poste,	21 Chantilly,	27
A Cygne Blanc	15 Clermont,	42
Les Bons Enfants,	48 Amiens,	90
	9 Pequigney,	99
L'Etoile de Jour,	21 Abbeville,	120
La Cour de France,	30 Montreuil	150
Leon d'Or,	24 Boulogne,	174
Hotel d'Angleterre,	21 Calais,	195

*Expence*


---

The French compute distance by leagues or by posts, but never by miles.

A post is two leagues, which I believe is not more than five English miles.

The common price of a chaise de poste from Calais to Paris is three louis-d'ors.

It costs about 5d. English per mile to ride post; the same for a person in a two-wheeled chaise with two horses; but the hire of the carriage is not included in that expence.

By the ordonnance of 1757, every person à franc etrier shall pay twenty-five sous per post for his own bidet, the same for his guide's.

For a carriage with two wheels and two horses, one person only being in it, two livres ten sous must be paid per post.

If there are three horses, or two persons in the chaise, or a servant behind it, three livres fifteen sous must be paid a post.

A four

*Expence of Travelling from CALAIS to*  
LONDON.

For half the paquet,	-	2	12	6
To the sailors,	-	0	10	6
Boat to land us, *	-	1	1	0
Porters,	-	0	5	0
Chaise and four, and post-horse for the servant	-	7	4	0
From Calais to London,	-	11	13	0

A a 3

Rout

A four-wheeled chaise with four horses shall pay five livres.

The post-masters may refuse to carry the baggage exceeding one hundred weight behind, and forty pounds before the carriage.

\* This expence was occasioned by the time of the tide and roughness of the weather, which prevented the vessel coming into the harbour: Boats therefore came off to us, and took advantage of our sickness and impatience, by extorting two guineas for putting eight of us on shore at the distance of half a mile.

*Rout and Distance from CALAIS to LONDON.*

Ship	To Dover,	24
Red Lion	16 Canterbury,	40
George	16 Sitingborne,	56
King's Head,	11 Rochester,	67
Marquis of Granby,	15 Dartford,	82
	15 London,	97

*Manner*

	<i>Manner of travelling.</i>	<i>Expence. £. s. Miles.</i>
24	From London to Harwich, } Post-chaise and four, }	6 10— 74
	—Harwich to Helveot, } In the packet, }	8 0—118
40	---Helveot to Utrecht, which includes the tout of Holland, }	In treck-schuytes, } 2 0---113
56	---Utrecht to Antwerp which incudes Dutch Brabant, }	In a coach and four, } 8 16— 84
67	--- Antwerp to Lisle, which includes the Austrian Netherlands }	In a coach and pair, } 5 7—115
82	—Lisle to Paris, }	In the Diligence } 11 9—156
	---Paris to Calais. }	In a coach and fix, } 20 0---192
97	---Calais to Dover, }	In the packet, } 4 9--- 24
	---Dover to London, }	In a chaise and four } 7 4--- 75

Number of miles in the whole tour is nine hundred and fifty one.

The conveyance of three gentlemen and one servant amounts to £.73. 15s. --- Absent from England nine weeks, three of which were spent in Paris.



Just published by G. KEARSLEY, at  
No. 46. in FLEET STREET. Price 3s. 6d.

**The GENTLEMAN's GUIDE**  
**in his TOUR through FRANCE.**

WRITTEN BY AN OFFICER,

Who lately travelled on a Principle which he  
most sincerely recommends to his Coun-  
trymen, viz. Not to spend more money  
than is requisite to support, with Decency,  
the Character of an ENGLISHMAN.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A CORRECT MAP

OF

All the Post-Roads of FRANCE :

With the Distances of the Towns laid down  
in a plain familiar Manner ; so as to render  
the Work much more useful than any other  
Publication of the Kind.

THE SIXTH EDITION,

With very considerable Additions.

Particularly an accurate Account of the dif-  
ferent Routs through ITALY, with the  
Distances of the Towns, and the Expence  
of Travelling.



at

C